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BY

S. R. CARVER,
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.

1901

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

11

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE
OF THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

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PREFACE.

The first Labour Report issued by this Bureau was published in 1912. This Report is the forty-third of the series and deals chiefly with 1954, in addition to providing comparisons for previous years. Some of the tabulations, however, include particulars relating to 1955.

The Report follows in the main the lines of its immediate predecessors in scope and arrangement. The subject-matter has been divided into five chapters, namely, Retail Prices and Price Indexes ; Wholesale Prices and Price Indexes ; Wages and Hours ; Employment and Unemployment (including Industrial Disputes) ; and Labour Organizations. The index at the end of the volume will considerably facilitate reference.

In tabulating the results of investigations as to rates of wage, labour organizations, unemployment, industrial disputes, etc., the following grouping has been adopted in this Report :—

Groups of Industries and Occupations.

I.	Wood, Furniture, Sawmills, Timber Works, &c.	VIII.	Mining, Quarrying, &c.
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, &c.	IX.	Railway and Tramway Services.
III.	Food, Drink, and Tobacco—Manufacture and Distribution.	X.	Other Transport.
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, &c.	XI.	Shipping, Wharf Labour, &c.
V.	Books, Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, Rural, Horticultural, &c.
VI.	Other Manufacturing.	XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, &c.
VII.	Building.	XIV.	Miscellaneous.

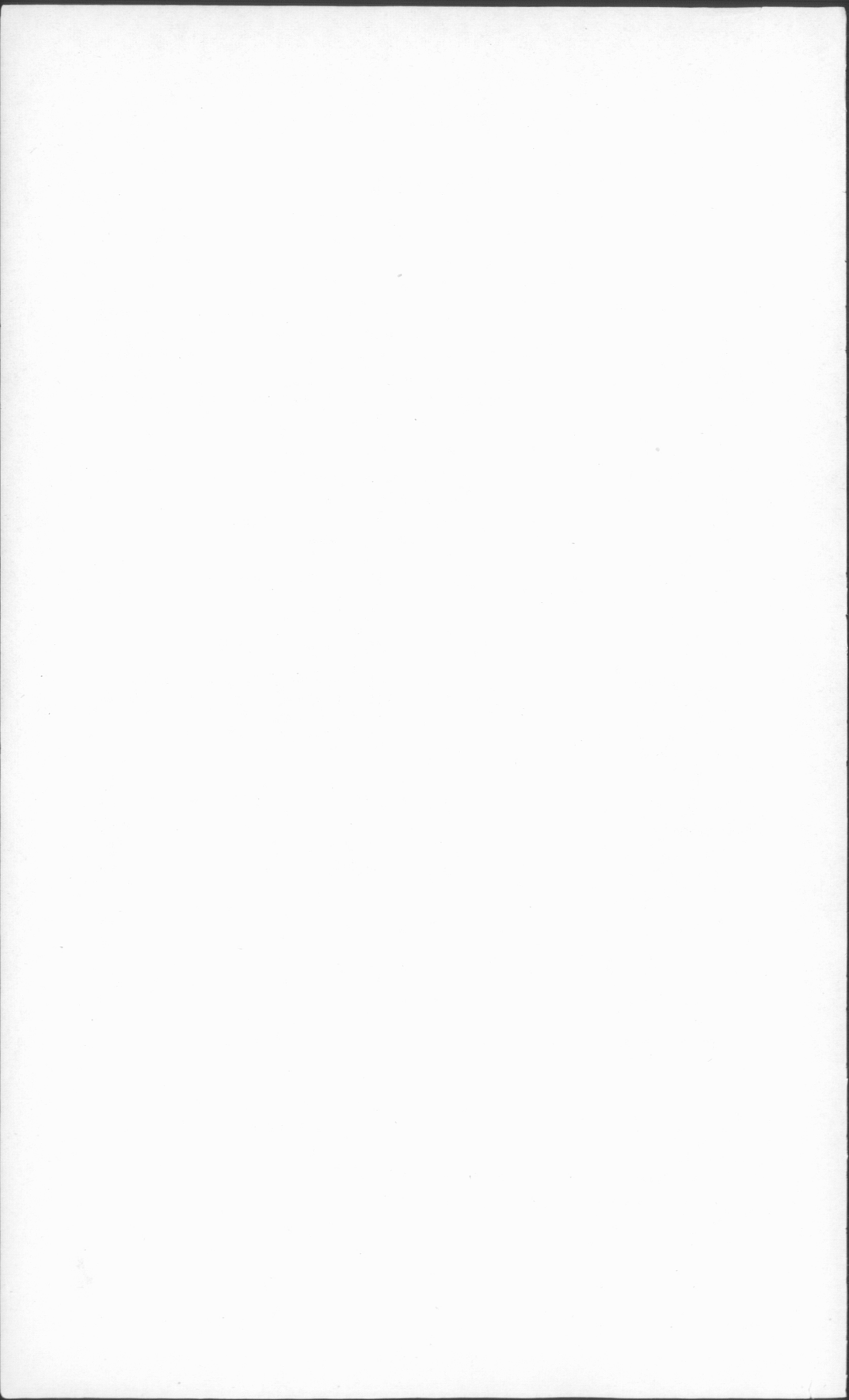
Secretaries of trade unions and of employers' associations, officials of Commonwealth and State Departments, private employers, retail traders, house agents and others have readily supplied much information specially for the purposes of this Report, and my thanks are tendered to all who have thus assisted.

Grateful acknowledgment is also made of the continued assistance given by the Statistical Offices in the various States, especially in regard to the collection of retail prices.

I also desire to express my appreciation of the work done in the preparation of this Report by Mr. F. Stewart, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Prices Branch, Mr. G. F. Cordy, B.Com., the Supervisor of the Employment and Labour Branch, and the staff under their control.

S. R. CARVER,
Acting Commonwealth Statistician.

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics,
Canberra, A.C.T., 9th April, 1956.



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CHAPTER I.—RETAIL PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. Collection of Information as to Retail Prices.

Retail prices of food and groceries and average rentals of houses for years extending back to the year 1901 were collected by the Commonwealth Statistician, and in some cases have been recorded by the Statisticians of various States as far back as 1864.

Retail prices of a more extensive range of commodities (including clothing) and certain services in common demand have been ascertained at frequent and regular intervals since 1923 for each of the six capital cities and for 27 of the more important towns of Australia. Comparable information is available for the month of November, in each year 1914 to 1922 for each of the six capital cities.

The range of items for which retail price data is now obtained was considerably extended in 1948.

The retail prices of food and groceries in approximately 200 towns throughout Australia were collected as at November of each year from 1913 to 1942 when collection was discontinued.

The methods by which prices used in the retail price indexes are ascertained and the measures adopted to ensure their accuracy and comparability are briefly as follows :—

- (i) Representative and reputable retailers are selected for each city and town covered by the index and each is required to furnish information as to prices monthly in respect of food and groceries and quarterly in respect of other items. Prices for each item are obtained where practicable from ten or more retailers in each of the capital cities, and from five or more retailers in each of the provincial towns. To cover all commodities in the indexes, collection is made from approximately 60 retailers in each capital city and 30 in each provincial town. Whenever necessary, supplementary information is obtained from other retailers.
- (ii) Information is collected under authority of the Census and Statistics Act 1905-1949 which requires that information be supplied accurately and promptly and ensures that particulars supplied by individual retailers will not be divulged to any other person or Government authority. Penalties are provided against failure to supply information, against supplying false information and against failure to answer truthfully any question asked by an authorized officer in respect of the contents of any return.
- (iii) The actual collection of returns is carried out by qualified Field Officers of the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics working under the supervision of the Statisticians of the respective States. These Field Officers have very wide powers of investigation, including entry of premises and inspection of goods, records, etc.
- (iv) The Field Officers not only receive and check returns but visit the retail shops concerned, whenever necessary, to obtain requisite information. In respect of articles of clothing and the like where variation of quality may be considerable, Field Officers are equipped with samples of the goods used for price comparisons. In such cases the Field Officers visit every retail informant at each quarterly collection and personally inspect the relevant goods and prices thereof.

- (v) Before each quarterly collection Supervising Field Officers review the standards of the whole of the items for which prices are collected after making extensive inquiries among manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers. These Supervising Field Officers periodically accompany Field Officers at their price collections and check their work. This not only ensures accuracy and assiduity but also that all Field Officers work on uniform lines and that, as far as care and effort can make it possible, prices for identical goods and quality will be recorded at all times and for all places.
- (vi) The lists of items and the standards thereof are revised from time to time to keep them in harmony with changing conditions. Where such changes become necessary suitable adjustments are made in computing the retail price indexes to ensure that they reflect changes in price with due precision and that they are not vitiated by the influence of other changes. Because of rapidly changing conditions since 1948, prices have been ascertained for an extended list of items. The purpose of this is to ensure that the indexes are kept representative and reliable within their definitions.
- (vii) Returns of rents for unfurnished houses of four and five rooms are made at the middle of each quarter by a representative number (ranging up to 30) of house agents in each city and town covered by the indexes for brick and wooden houses respectively, classified according to number of rooms. These returns show the weekly rental of a substantial number of individual houses each of which is selected by the Field Officer as suitable for inclusion in a sample designed to measure the quarterly ratio of change in weekly rentals. The aim is to measure variations equivalent to change in price for a constant standard. The ratio of change is used to vary basic average rentals derived from Census results. Consideration is being given to the problem of obtaining data appropriate to a more broadly based housing component for the Interim Retail Price Index described in § 4 herein.

§ 2. Nature and Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.

1. **General.**—The basic principle of a retail price index is relatively simple. It is to select commodities representative of the field to be covered and to combine their prices at regular intervals in accordance with their relative importance in that field. The aim is to measure the degree of change in prices for the selected field taken as a whole.

In practice the application of this principle over a term of years presents great difficulty by reason of the numerous changes which occur in the type, grade and relative quantities of many of the items commonly used.

A full explanation of the methods adopted and an analysis of problems involved is contained in the Appendix to Labour Report No. 9.

In compiling the retail price indexes the price of each item is multiplied by its quantity "weight" and then by its appropriate population or household "weight". The sum of these products for all items at any

given date represents an "aggregate expenditure". The "aggregate expenditures" for successive periods are converted into an index by representing the aggregate of a selected or "base" period by an appropriate number (e.g., 100 or 1,000), and calculating all index numbers to such base by the proportions which their aggregates bear to the aggregate of the base period.

2. **Essential Features.**—Apart from clear thinking, common sense and sound arithmetic, the prime essentials in compiling a retail price index are—

- (a) that prices be accurately ascertained at regular intervals for goods of constant grade and quality;
- (b) that the list of items be as representative as possible of the field to be covered;
- (c) that the weights be in approximate proportion to quantities actually used in the selected field.

3. **The List of Items.**—The list of items must be a selected list because it is impossible in practice to ascertain at regular intervals prices of every item of goods and services entering into household expenditure. There is considerable difficulty in ensuring that the selected items are always a true sample. Some items which it would be desirable to include must be excluded because comparative prices cannot be accurately ascertained for them at different times and different places. It is deemed better to limit the list to items for which price variations can be ascertained with reasonable accuracy than to distend it by including items for which price comparisons are necessarily inaccurate. Similarly, many items of small aggregate or individual importance are excluded. The list therefore is not (as is sometimes erroneously supposed) a basic wage regimen nor yet is it a full list of component items in a standard of living. It does not imply that any particular goods or any selected grades or quantities of these goods should enter into determination of a basic or living wage. The lists used are simply selected items combined in certain proportions for the purpose of measuring price variations. The items are representative of the fields covered, and the proportions approximate to those in average consumption so far as can be ascertained. The list of items in the "C" Series Retail Price Index is representative of a high proportion of the expenditure of wage earner households as current in pre-war years. That of the Interim Retail Price Index is similarly representative for post-war years as from 1950.

4. **Purpose of Retail Price Indexes.**—Retail price indexes are designed to measure the extent of changes in price levels only. While they may be used as indicating proportionate variations in cost of a *constant* standard of living, they do not measure the absolute cost of any standard of living, nor the absolute cost of changes in the standard of living. In other words they measure, as nearly as may be, the proportionate change in the aggregate cost of specified quantities and qualities of the selected list of items included in the index. See also Resolution 13 (d) of Conference of Statisticians quoted on page 7 hereof.

5. **Effects of Abnormal Conditions on Indexes.**—Under variable conditions since 1940, scarcity of certain types of goods, erratic supply and changes of grades in common use have created recurrent difficulty in obtaining the data necessary for measuring variations in prices. In some instances, this has rendered it necessary to substitute new grades, qualities or types

of articles for those formerly used as indicators of changes in price. This has been the case more particularly in the clothing, household drapery and household utensils sections of the indexes. Substitutions of similar kind were necessary at times under pre-war conditions in order to meet changes of fashion and usage. Such substitutions help to keep the indexes representative of current conditions and are not injurious to an index provided the transitional difficulties can be solved as they arise. No change in principle is involved. The indexes continue to measure, as accurately as may be, price variations, and price variations only. Those differences in prices which are solely due to substitution of a new item for one which has ceased to be available or in common use are neutralized by taking the price of the old item as typical of price variation in its class up to the time of substitution, and the prices of the new items as typical of such changes in price thereafter.

In periods of economic stability, popular usage of items in general consumption changes slowly and the weight of individual items and groups of items used in retail price indexes require to be changed only at long intervals. In other periods, scarcity of supplies of some goods, rationing and kindred factors may actually produce short-term changes in usage. In such periods, continuity of the index requires that the weights applicable to the items in the index be not changed at frequent short intervals.

Nevertheless, it becomes desirable periodically to compile a new retail price index with a list of items and weights more representative of current usage than those of the former index.

The ensuing §§ 3 and 4 are the substance of a Statistical Bulletin issued in March, 1954 concerning the new Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year) then issued for the first time.

§ 3. Previous Retail Price Indexes.

1. **General.**—Four series of retail price indexes had been compiled at various times for Australia by the Commonwealth Statistician prior to 1954. Each of these was continued until changed conditions required the compilation of indexes more directly relevant to current conditions. The respective indexes were :—

- (i) *The "A" Series Index* (covering food, groceries and house rents) was first compiled in 1912 with the year 1911 as base=1000. It was discontinued in June, 1938. From 1913 to May, 1933 this index was used for wage adjustment purposes by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Some other tribunals continued to use it until 1938 in certain localities.
- (ii) *The "B" Series Index* (covering food, groceries and rent of 4 and 5 roomed houses) was first compiled in 1925 and continued until December Quarter, 1953. It was the food and rent constituent of the "C" Series Index and was designed to replace the "A" Series Index for general statistical purposes. The "B" Series Index was not used by industrial tribunals in connexion with the adjustment of wages. Its publication was discontinued as from December Quarter, 1953.

- (iii) *The "C" Series Index* (covering food and groceries, rent of 4 and 5-roomed houses, clothing, household drapery, household utensils, fuel, lighting, fares, smoking and some other miscellaneous items) was first compiled in 1921. It was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for purposes of quarterly wage adjustments from May, 1934 to August, 1953. Most State tribunals use or consider it in their proceedings. Its publication in mimeograph each quarter will be continued for the present in the customary form and on its customary basis. For general statistical purposes it has been replaced by the Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 base year) described in the following pages.
- (iv) *The "D" Series Index* derived by combining the "A" and "C" Series Indexes was used by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration from May, 1933 to May, 1934 and then discontinued.

Of the four retail price indexes described above, only the "C" Series will continue to be compiled. The new Interim Retail Price Index first published in March, 1954 will continue in its present form until the components of certain groups are finalized.

2. **The "Court" Index.**—In 1937 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration introduced a "Court" Index for the purpose of its system of making automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage within its jurisdiction. A "Court" Index (Second Series) was created by the Court in 1946 and a "Court" Index (Third Series) in November, 1950 to provide for automatic adjustment of the increased amounts of adjustable basic wage then determined by the Court at those dates. By decision of the Court the "Court" Index ceased to be issued by the Industrial Registrar as at December Quarter, 1953. These "Court" Indexes were an arithmetical conversion of the "C" Series Index.

§ 4. The Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year).

1. **Origin of the Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 Base Year).**—The list of component items and the weighting pattern of the "C" Series Retail Price Index were first adopted in 1922 but were reviewed by Conference of Statisticians in 1936. (See Labour Report No. 41, 1952, page 33, para. 2.)

From the outbreak of war in 1939 to late in 1948 periodic policy changes in regard to various war-time controls (including rationing) caused recurrent changes in consumption and the pattern of expenditure. This rendered it impracticable either to produce a new index or to revise the old one on any basis that would render the index more representative, than it already was, of the changing pattern. (See Labour Report No. 41, 1952, page 35, paras. 5 and 6, and Appendix, Section V., pages 164-213, especially page 174 showing the War-time "Trial" Index 1939-48 in comparison with the "C" Series Index with comments submitted in the Statistician's evidence before the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in July, 1949.)

When commodity rationing had virtually ceased in the latter part of 1948, action was taken by the Statistician to collect price data of about 100 additional items and to gather information as to current consumption and expenditure patterns. This was done to facilitate review of the component

items and weighting system of the "C" Series Retail Price Index, in the light of the new pattern of wage earner expenditure and consumption then emerging.

By the middle of 1949 a considerable number of new price series was coming into being and the body of data available as to expenditure and consumption (in the post-rationing period) was beginning to indicate something of the new weighting pattern likely to be appropriate for post-war review of the components and construction of the "C" Series Index. The position at that time and the action then taken were set out in a Memorandum submitted in evidence by the Statistician to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in July, 1949. This was reprinted in Section V. of the Appendix to Labour Report No. 41, 1952, pp. 164-213.

There supervened in the next two years conditions which caused wide price dispersion, a very rapid rise in prices and a new sequence of changes in consumption and the pattern of wage earner expenditure. Under these conditions it was not possible to devise any new weighting pattern for the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 likely to be better suited to the index or more continuously representative of conditions then current than was the existing "C" Series Index on the 1936 revision. It was therefore decided by Conference of Statisticians to defer revision of the weighting system and component items of the "C" Series Index, and the new data on prices and consumption were used to test whether the aggregate "C" Series Index was reasonably reliable for current use as a retail price index.

In June, 1953, Conference of Statisticians was advised by the Acting Commonwealth Statistician (a) that although the aggregate "C" Series Index (as verified by supplementary indexes) was still reasonably reliable for current use, some of the component groups (more particularly food and miscellaneous) were not satisfactory individually; and (b) that the time had arrived either to produce a new index or to reconstruct the "C" Series Index extensively.

Concurrently in 1953 the Acting Commonwealth Statistician indicated (in successive Quarterly Statistical Statements containing the "C" Series Retail Price Index) that a memorandum would be prepared and issued on the subject of the index and the question of its weighting pattern and list of component items. The matter of the proposed memorandum was mentioned by a witness in evidence before the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in August, 1953. But as none of the parties to the Basic Wage Case then proceeding desired to raise any issue as to the adequacy or validity of the "C" Series Index for purposes of the Court, the Statistician did not present any memorandum or evidence in that case.

A Statistical Bulletin issued in March, 1954 and reproduced in this and the preceding section contains the substance of the memorandum then contemplated, with the addition of the new Interim Index. In view of discussion by Counsel and advocates in Court in August, 1953, two explicit statements previously made were emphasized in that bulletin, namely:—

- (a) The prices used in retail price indexes compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician are actual prices as ascertained by Field Officers of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.
- (b) Administrative actions by the many authorities responsible for prices control or other functions affecting prices have not made the indexes inaccurate reflections of what they are intended to measure.

The Interim Retail Price Index has been compiled pursuant to Resolution 13 of the Conference of Statisticians in June, 1953, reading :—

“ 13. *Retail Price Indexes*—

- (a) That, in view of the persistence of recurrent changes in the pattern of consumer expenditure in the post-war period, it is undesirable to make a general revision of the list of items and weighting system of the “ C ” Series Retail Price Index at present, unless industrial tribunals expressly desire some revision for special purposes.
- (b) That an Interim Retail Price Index be compiled with putative weights and components representative, as nearly as may be, of the post-war pattern of consumer usage and expenditure.
- (c) That, having regard to the complexities of the problem and the limit of staff resources available, such interim index relate only to each capital city and to the six capital cities combined.
- (d) That attention be drawn again to the statement already published that the “ C ” Series Retail Price Index cannot measure changes in relative retail price levels as between capital cities consistently with its main purpose of measuring periodic changes in retail price levels for each city.
- (e) That the problem of measuring comparative retail price levels as between cities at any point of time differs in principle from the problem of measuring periodic variations in price levels in an individual city ”.

In conformity with Section (a) of the foregoing Resolution, the “ C ” Series Retail Price Index continues to be compiled and published quarterly in its customary form.

The Interim Retail Price Index (1952-53 base year) is compiled to implement Section (b) of Conference Resolution and used as the current retail price index in statistical publications of the Commonwealth Statistician for general statistical purposes, irrespective of what use is made of either index by any industrial tribunal for its own purposes.

In this regard the position is that industrial tribunals themselves decide what use (if any) they make of any available retail price index or whether they desire the Statistician to compile some special-purpose index for them. It is not the practice for the Statistician to express any view as to whether such tribunals should use retail price indexes in their deliberations. The Statistician, in the normal course of his duties, compiles and publishes various price indexes, states their definition (what they measure), explains how they are constructed and gives evidence or public information when desired concerning them.

With respect to Sections (d) and (e) of the Conference Resolution the Statistician is prepared to compile data as to relative price levels in respective capital cities on the basis specified by an industrial tribunal for its purposes. The Interim Retail Price Index relates to Six Capital Cities of Australia only, because it is not practicable with existing staff resources to collect price data for the greatly enlarged list of items for 28 other cities and towns. These continue to be covered for the less extensive list of items used for the “ C ” Series Index.

In respect of any divergency in trends shown by the new index as compared with the old, the following comment is paraphrased from comment made in the course of the Statistician's memoranda to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in 1949: It is to be expected that the new index will for a period show much the same trend as does the "C" Series Index. If there is any appreciable difference in trend, it is certain that the new index would be the more accurate reflex of price movements relevant under current conditions.

2. Definition of the Interim Retail Price Index.—This index provides the interim results of researches designed to measure retail price variations for each of six capital cities individually (with 1952-53 = 100 as base year for each city) on the basis of:—

- (a) a current pattern of wage earner expenditure using recent consumption weights for foods and recent expenditure weights for combining groups of items into the aggregate index;
- (b) a wider range of commodities and services than that covered by any existing price index in order to provide greater representativeness; and
- (c) individual city weights for such items as electricity, gas and fares.

The components and weighting of the Interim Retail Price Index will be reviewed in the light of data derived from the Census of Retail Sales (1952-53) as to consumer expenditure on various kinds of goods, estimates of consumer expenditure on services relevant to construction of a retail price index of this type and data as to rents and housing derived from the Census of 30th June, 1954. It is proposed to cast the index into final form as soon as possible.

3. Differences between the Structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and the "C" Series Retail Price Index.—The main differences between the structure of the Interim Retail Price Index and that of the "C" Series Retail Price Index are (a) the group weights and item weights of the Interim Index relate broadly to the consumption pattern 1950-53, while those of the "C" Series Index relate to pre-war years; and (b) the Interim Index includes a large number of items not included in the "C" Series Index. A full list of the items used in the Interim Index is shown in § 4, pp. 10-13 hereof. The list of items in the Interim Index is to be amended in some respects when the index is put into final form.

The differences in structure of each group of items as adopted for the Interim Retail Price Index are summarized below:—

(i) *Food Group.*—(a) The weights of some of the main items (e.g., milk, eggs, meat, potatoes and flour) in the Interim Index are substantially different from those in the "C" Series Index to accord generally with average consumption in the years 1949-50 to 1952-53. (b) Twenty-four new items have been added to the Food Group, extending the group coverage over a wider field. The principal new items are lamb, packaged breakfast foods, biscuits, ice cream, processed cheese, honey, sandwich spreads, coffee, cocoa, soft drinks and certain types of confectionery. (c) The total number of items in the Food Group of the Interim Index is 60 as compared with 38 in the "C" Series Index. Two items which were included in the "C"

Series Index are not included in the Interim Index owing to the difficulty of securing satisfactory price data for them. Two non-food items (soap and kerosene) included in the Food and Groceries Group of the "C" Series Index appear in the Household Sundries Group of the Interim Index. The Group name "Food and Groceries" in the "C" Series Index is changed to "Food" in the Interim Index.

(ii) *Clothing and Drapery Group*.—In the Interim Index, 17 new items have been added to the Clothing and Drapery Group, and 25 items each formerly represented by one type of article are now each represented by two or more types. Consequential adjustments have been made in weights of individual items. The principal new items added to this group are: sports coat, sports trousers, cardigan (and other types of knitted wear), overalls, piece-goods (rayon, cotton and woollen) and knitting wool.

(iii) *Rent Group*.—Only minor changes have been made in the Rent Group. These changes relate to the combining weights and this group is almost identical in both indexes. Available data indicate (a) that, in general, very few new houses have been built by private owners for renting in the post-war years; (b) that in some cities considerable numbers of new Government houses have been built for renting or occupancy on a quasi-rental basis; and (c) that there has been a substantial increase in the numbers of owner-occupied houses, including new instalment-purchase or quasi-instalment-purchase houses under Governmental and private housing schemes. In recent years the difficulty of obtaining data suitable for the housing component of a price index has therefore intensified. The facts will be reviewed in the light of data obtained at the Census of 30th June, 1954 and further study will be given to the hitherto intractable problems associated with measuring at quarterly intervals "housing price" variations in a form suitable for use in a retail price index in respect of owner-occupied houses, instalment-purchase houses, and houses occupied under the various types of Governmental housing schemes.

(iv) *Other Groups*.—Six new sub-groups are included in the Interim Index to replace Sections L, M and N of the Miscellaneous Group of the "C" Series Index. These six sub-groups of the new index comprise 75 items as compared with 32 in the old index, substantially enlarging their representativeness. The principal new items are garden tools, floor coverings, shaving cream, toilet soap, etc., patent medicines, baby foods, haircuts, dry cleaning, shoe repairs, postage, etc. Necessary adjustments have been made to bring the group weight into conformity with recent expenditure and consumption patterns. The weight of this group is much greater than it was in the "C" Series Index. Further extensions of the list of items are under consideration and research is proceeding into problems of weighting for additional items.

(v) *Group Weights*.—The group weights in the new Interim Index have been brought into general conformity with the estimated group distribution of wage earner household expenditure in recent years over the field covered. In some cases the weights are putative weights assessed on available data and are subject to some revision.

In the year 1952-53 the ratio of the individual group "aggregate expenditure" to the "aggregate expenditure" of the whole index for the six capital cities combined was as follows :—

Group.	"C" Series Retail Price Index. (Per cent.)	Interim Retail Price Index. (Per cent.)
Food	41.0	37.1
Clothing and Drapery ..	33.0	26.8
Rent	11.3	9.0
Other Groups ..	4.5	4.6 Fuel and Light
	5.3	4.6 Household Sundries
	2.8	2.5 Certain Repairs and Services
	2.1	3.0 Cinema, Radio, Newspapers
		6.6 Rail, Tram and Bus Fares
		5.8 Tobacco and Cigarettes
	100.0	100.0

In the Interim Index common weights are adopted for all groups and items in the index for each city except in respect of fares, gas, electricity and some minor items. The resultant indexes show price variations for each city on a basis appropriate to that city. They are not constructed to provide a measure of the relative "cost of living", comparing one city with another.

For that reason the Interim Index of each city in the base year 1952-53 is 100. In the case of the "C" Series Index as published herein, the weighted average of the six capital cities combined is 1,000 on the base period 1923-27 and the index of each individual capital city is in ratio thereto (except where "C" Series Indexes of each city have been arithmetically converted to the base 100 for the year 1952-53 for purposes of comparison with the Interim Index).

4. **List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index.**—The following is a list of items embraced within the Interim Retail Price Index. Items included in the Interim Index and not in the "C" Series Retail Price Index are denoted by asterisks.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index.

FOOD—

Cereal Products—

Bread.

Flour, Ordinary.

Flour, Self-raising.

Biscuits.*

Flaked Oats.

Rice.

Prepared Breakfast Foods—

From Wheat.*

From Maize.*

FOOD—continued.

Dairy Produce—

Milk, Fresh.

Milk, Powdered.*

Milk, Condensed.

Cheese, Processed.*

Cheese, Ordinary.

Butter.

Eggs.

Bacon.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—continued.

FOOD—continued.

Potatoes, Onions, Preserved Fruit and

Vegetables—

Peaches, Canned.
Pears, Canned.
Raisins, Seeded.
Currants, Loose.
Prunes, Dried.*
Green Peas, Canned.*
Potatoes.
Onions.

Soft Drink, Chocolate Confectionery and

Ice Cream—

Soft Drink.*
Chocolate Confectionery.*
Ice Cream.*

Other (except Meat)—

Sugar.
Jam.
Golden Syrup.
Honey.*
Sandwich Spreads.*
Baked Beans.*
Spaghetti.*
Sardines.*
Margarine.*
Seed Tapioca.
Sauce, Tomato.*
Tea.
Cocoa.*
Coffee.*

Meat—

Beef—

Sirloin Roast.
Rib Roast.
Steak—Rump.
Steak—Blade.*
Steak—Chuck.
Sausages.
Silverside.
Brisket.

Mutton—

Leg.
Forequarter.
Chops, Loin.
Chops, Leg.

Lamb—

Leg.*
Forequarter.*
Chops, Loin.*
Chops, Leg.*

Pork—

Leg.
Loin.
Chops.

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—

Men's—

Suit.
Overcoat (2 types).
Sports Coat.*
Sports Trousers.*

CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—continued.

Men's—continued.

Pullover.
Cardigan.*
Pullover (Sleeveless).
Working Trousers (Cotton).
Working Trousers (Wool).*
Overalls.*
Shirt, Ordinary Wear.
Shirt, Work (2 types).
Singlet, Flannel.*
Singlet, Wool and Cotton (2 types).
Singlet, Athletic (2 types).
Underpants, Wool and Cotton (2 types).
Underpants, Cotton (2 types).
Pyjamas (2 types).
Socks (2 types).
Hats (2 types).
Braces.
Handkerchiefs (2 types).

Women's—

Costume.
Skirt.
Cardigan.
Twin Set.*
Dress, Cotton.
Dress, Rayon (2 types).
Slip (3 types).
Vest, Wool and Rayon (2 types).
Vest, Rayon (3 types).
Panties, Bloomers, &c. (3 types).
Brassiere (3 types).
Nightdress (3 types).
Pyjamas.
Corsets.*
Stockings, Nylon (8 brands).
Stockings, Lisle (2 brands).
Hat, Felt (2 types).
Beret.*
Hat, Straw (2 types).
Gloves, Fabric (2 types).
Gloves, Nappa.
Umbrella.*
Apron.

Children's—

Boys'—

Suit.
Overcoat.
Pants (10-yr. old).
Pants (4-yr. old).
Pullover.
Shirt—
Sports.
Ranger.
Singlet—
Wool.
Cotton Athletic.
Stockings—
Golf.
Anklet.
Pyjamas.
Cap.
Braces.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—continued.**CLOTHING AND DRAPERY—continued.***Children's—continued.**Girls'—*

Tunic.
Overcoat.
B'azer.*
Pullover.
Dress.
Petticoat.
Singlet—
Wool and Rayon
Rayon.
Panties, Bloomers, &c.—
Fleecy Lined.
Rayon.
Pyjamas—
Winceyette.
Rayon.
Socks.
Hat—
Felt.
Straw.

Piecegoods, &c.—

Rayon.*
Cotton (2 types).*
Woollen.*
Fingering Wool.*

*Footwear—**Men's—*

Working Boots.
Shoes.

Women's—

Shoes, Best.
Shoes, Ordinary.

Children's—

Shoes, Boys'.
Girls' Best.
Girls' School.
Young Children's.

Household Drapery—

Blankets, D.B. (2 types).
Blankets, S.B. (2 types).
Sheets, D.B.
Sheets, S.B.
Sheeting.*
Pillow Slip (2 types).
Pillow.*
Towel.
Tea Towel.

RENT—

Four and five-roomed tenanted houses.

OTHER GROUPS—*Electricity, Gas, and Firewood—*

Electricity.
Gas.
Firewood.

Household Sundries—

Household Utensils—
Plate, Dinner.
Jug.
Pudding Basin.

OTHER GROUPS—continued.*Household Sundries—continued.**Household Utensils—continued.*

Tumbler.
Saucepan.
Pressure Cooker.*
Cake Tin.*
Frying Pan.*
Boiler.*
Cutlery—
Knife.
Tea Spoon.
Dessert Spoon.
Table Fork.
Globe, Electric.
Iron, Electric (2 types).
Toaster, Electric.*
Jug, Electric.*
Spade.*
Fork.*
Rake.*
Hoe.*
Lawn Mower.*
Bucket.
Broom—
Millet.
Hair.
Scrubbing Brush.
Polishing Mop.
Axe.*

Floor Coverings—

Carpet.*
Linoleum.*
Felt.*

Other—

Matches.*
Kerosene.
Steel Wool.*
Boot Polish.*
Starch.*
Cleaner Paste.*
Soap, Household.
Soap, Powder.*
Personal Requisites—
Toilet Soap.*
Shaving Cream.*
Tooth Paste.*
Razor Blades.*
Antiseptic.*
Proprietary Medicines, &c.—
Cough Mixture.*
Tonic.*
A.P.C.*
Cascara.*
Ointment.*
Baby Food.*
School Requisites—
Lead Pencil.
Penholder.
Nibs.
Eraser.
Ruler.
Pastels.
Blotting Paper.
Exercise Books.

List of Items—Interim Retail Price Index—continued.**OTHER GROUPS—continued.***Services—*

Hairdressing.*

Drycleaning—

Men's—

Suit (3 piece).*

Suit (2 piece).*

Sports Trousers.*

Sports Coat.*

Women's—

Frock.*

Skirt.*

Overcoat.*

Shoe Repairs—

Men's.*

Boys'.*

Women's.*

Postage.*

Telegram.*

Telephone—

Private Phone Call.*

Public Phone Call.*

Rental.*

OTHER GROUPS—continued.*Cinema Admission, Radio Licence and Newspapers—*

Cinema—

Adult Admission.

Child's Admission.

Radio Licence.

Newspapers—

Morning.

Evening.

Fares (City and Suburban Train, Tram and Bus)—

Train Fares.

Tram and Bus Fares.

Tobacco and Cigarettes—

Cigarettes—

Australian.

Imported.*

Tobacco (Australian)—

Cigarette.

Pipe.

Cigarette Papers.

5. Comparison of Trends of the Interim Retail Price Index with Trends of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.—The following table shows for each of the years 1950-51 to 1954-55 and for each quarter from March Quarter, 1953 to December Quarter, 1955 the Interim Index for the six capital cities combined, with the year 1952-53 as base = 100, in comparison with the "C" Series Index arithmetically converted to the same base :—

Period.				Six Capital Cities: Weighted Average. (Base: Year 1952-53 = 100.)	
				"C" Series Index.	Interim Index.
Year ended June—1951				74.8	74.9
1952				91.7	91.4
1953				100.0	100.0
1954				102.8	102.5
1955				103.7	103.6
Quarter ended—					
1953—March				100.3	100.4
June				101.4	101.6
September				102.7	102.4
December				102.9	102.2
1954—March				102.9	102.7
June				102.8	102.7
September				102.6	102.7
December				103.2	103.2
1955—March				103.9	103.8
June				105.0	104.7
September				106.6	105.7
December				107.7	107.0

The figures appearing after the decimal point possess little significance for general statistical purposes. They are inserted merely to avoid the distortion that would occur in rounding off the figures to the nearest whole number. For instance, if the Interim Indexes of the Six Capital Cities (Weighted Average) for each quarter of 1953 were rounded off to 100, 102, 102 and 102 respectively, they would suggest a rise of 2 per cent. in June Quarter, 1953 and no change in September Quarter, 1953. The figures for the Interim Index as presented in the table indicate a rise of the order of 1 per cent. in June Quarter, 1953, and 1 per cent. in September Quarter, 1953. Price indexes cannot measure aggregate price variations with an accuracy of the order of one-tenth of 1 per cent.

With changing conditions significant divergences may occur between the movements shown by a retail price index (such as the "C" Series Index) constructed on pre-war weights and a comparatively limited range of major items and a retail price index (such as the Interim Index) constructed on 1950-53 weights and a broader list of items. (See last paragraph of § 4, I., page 8.)

Due regard should be paid to the fact that a composite price index is necessarily an approximate summary which combines into one aggregate price variations of many items. Any more rigid use of the index for specific purposes is the responsibility of the bodies or persons using the indexes.

The following indexes are based on the year 1952-53 = 100 for *each* city. They therefore measure price movements from period to period *for each city separately*. While they indicate *degree* of price movement from time to time for respective cities, they do not indicate the *relative* level of prices (or level of living costs) in each city.

Latterly some appreciable disparities have begun to appear in the movement of the respective indexes for individual cities from quarter to quarter. In this connexion reference is made to the statement in the first paragraph on page 8 hereof. The Interim Index, being based on recent weights and an extended list of items, is the more accurate measure of quarterly retail price variations under current circumstances.

Pending completion of investigations into the problem of devising a housing component more widely based than the present rent component, housing is represented in both indexes only by rentals of private houses of 4 and 5 rooms. As the laws governing rent control differ as between cities and as modifications therein are made in varying degrees and at irregular intervals, both indexes (including this rent component) show sporadic periodic movements due to sudden changes in law relating to rents. These are reflected in Table A below.

In order to provide a clearer perspective of the movement of retail *commodity* prices, Table B has been compiled to embrace all commodities and services (other than rents) which are included within the respective indexes.

"C" Series and Interim Retail Price Index Numbers.
(Base of Each Index for Each City : Year 1952-53 = 100.0.)

TABLE A.—ALL GROUPS INCLUDING RENT.

Quarter.	SYDNEY.		MELBOURNE.		BRISBANE.		ADELAIDE.		PERTH.		HOBART.		SIX CAPITALS. (Weighted Average).	
	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.
1952—September ..	98.7	98.6	98.9	98.6	99.7	99.3	100.4	99.7	98.7	98.8	97.6	97.2	99.0	98.8
December ..	99.4	99.4	99.2	99.2	99.5	99.4	98.8	99.0	99.1	99.3	98.3	97.8	99.2	99.3
1953—March ..	100.5	100.5	100.3	100.3	100.2	100.2	99.8	100.1	100.1	100.4	101.3	101.8	100.3	100.4
June ..	101.4	101.5	101.6	101.8	100.7	101.1	101.0	101.2	102.0	101.6	102.8	103.2	101.4	101.6
September ..	102.6	102.2	102.6	102.6	102.0	102.0	102.2	102.1	103.7	102.7	106.9	106.9	102.7	102.4
December ..	102.5	101.8	103.0	102.2	103.6	103.1	102.6	101.7	103.1	102.2	108.7	107.4	102.9	102.2
1954—March ..	102.8	102.6	102.6	102.4	104.1	103.8	102.0	102.0	104.6	103.3	106.6	106.7	102.9	102.7
June ..	102.0	102.2	102.3	102.3	103.0	103.3	102.3	102.0	110.3	107.6	105.0	105.3	102.8	102.7
September ..	101.9	102.2	101.4	101.8	102.4	102.8	103.3	102.5	111.9	109.0	104.7	105.1	102.6	102.7
December ..	102.8	102.9	101.7	102.2	103.7	103.6	103.5	102.8	111.5	108.7	104.6	104.9	103.2	103.2
1955—March ..	103.3	103.4	102.6	102.9	104.5	104.5	104.3	103.5	112.0	109.3	105.6	105.8	103.9	103.8
June ..	104.1	103.8	103.9	104.0	105.0	105.1	106.2	105.4	111.2	106.6	106.6	106.6	105.0	104.7
September ..	105.5	104.6	106.7	105.8	105.8	105.6	106.8	106.0	114.1	111.1	107.9	108.2	106.6	105.7
December ..	106.2	105.4	108.6	108.3	105.8	106.0	107.7	106.4	114.7	111.6	109.8	109.6	107.7	107.0

TABLE B.—COMMODITIES AND SERVICES EXCLUDING RENT.

(The following indexes relate to food, groceries, clothing and miscellaneous items other than rent.)

Quarter.	SYDNEY.		MELBOURNE.		BRISBANE.		ADELAIDE.		PERTH.		HOBART.		SIX CAPITALS. (Weighted Average).	
	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.	"C" Series.	Interim.
1952—September ..	99.4	99.1	98.8	98.5	99.7	99.3	100.9	99.9	98.6	98.7	98.2	97.7	99.3	99.0
December ..	99.5	99.5	99.1	99.1	99.4	99.4	98.6	98.9	99.0	99.3	98.9	98.2	99.2	99.3
1953—March ..	100.1	100.2	100.4	100.4	100.2	100.1	99.6	100.0	100.1	100.4	100.7	101.3	100.2	100.3
June ..	100.9	101.1	101.8	102.0	100.7	101.1	100.9	101.2	102.2	101.7	102.3	102.8	101.3	101.5
September ..	102.1	101.7	102.0	102.8	102.1	102.0	102.2	102.1	104.0	102.8	106.8	106.9	102.6	102.3
December ..	101.9	101.2	103.3	102.4	103.7	103.2	102.6	101.7	103.3	102.2	108.6	107.2	102.8	102.0
1954—March ..	101.9	102.0	102.8	102.6	104.2	103.8	101.9	101.9	104.8	103.3	106.2	106.4	102.7	102.5
June ..	101.0	101.5	102.5	102.3	102.9	103.2	102.1	101.9	106.5	104.3	104.5	104.8	102.2	102.2
September ..	100.9	101.5	101.4	101.8	102.1	102.7	103.3	102.4	106.8	104.6	104.1	104.7	101.8	102.1
December ..	101.8	102.2	101.7	102.2	103.5	103.5	103.4	102.6	106.2	104.2	103.9	104.4	102.4	102.5
1955—March ..	102.4	102.7	102.7	103.0	104.4	104.4	104.2	103.4	106.6	104.8	105.1	105.5	103.2	103.2
June ..	103.3	103.2	104.1	104.1	104.9	105.0	105.8	105.0	108.9	106.5	106.2	106.3	104.4	104.1
September ..	104.7	104.0	107.1	106.1	105.7	105.6	106.1	105.3	108.2	106.1	107.7	108.1	106.0	105.2
December ..	105.5	104.8	109.3	108.9	105.8	106.0	106.9	105.7	108.6	106.5	109.8	109.5	107.2	106.5

6. Tabular Statements of Interim Retail Price Index Numbers.—Information relating to the Interim Retail Price index numbers is published as follows :—

Monthly.—The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Quarterly.—Statements are issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter relating to the Interim Retail Price Index for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Annual.—In addition to the information published in the annual Labour Report, the *Official Year Book* contains a brief summary concerning the index.

On this and the following page are published :—

- (i) the Interim Retail Price index numbers for each of the years ended June from 1951 to 1955, and for each quarter during the period September Quarter, 1952 to December Quarter, 1955, for the weighted average of the six capital cities combined, showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items below ;
- (ii) the Interim Retail Price index numbers for each of the years ended June from 1952 to 1955, and for each quarter during the period December Quarter, 1954 to December Quarter, 1955, for each capital city and for the six capital cities combined, and showing also separate indexes for each of the four groups of items (page 17).

Interim Retail Price Index—Group Indexes.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base : Year 1952-53 = 100.)

Period.	Food.	Clothing and Drapery.	Rent.(a)	Other Items.	All Groups.
Year ended June—					
1951	67.9	78.1	90.3	76.3	74.9
1952	89.4	93.8	92.6	91.3	91.4
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1954	103.7	101.6	105.0	100.9	102.5
1955	104.6	102.4	109.6	101.4	103.6
Quarter ended—					
1952—September ..	99.8	98.0	97.0	98.7	98.8
December	98.5	99.6	99.0	100.0	99.3
1953—March	100.0	100.4	101.4	100.6	100.4
June	101.7	102.0	102.6	100.7	101.6
September	103.9	101.5	103.3	101.0	102.4
December	103.4	101.6	103.9	100.5	102.2
1954—March	104.0	101.8	104.9	101.2	102.7
June	103.7	101.5	107.7	100.9	102.7
September	103.0	101.6	108.9	101.2	102.7
December	103.7	102.3	109.3	101.2	103.2
1955—March	105.3	102.4	109.7	101.2	103.8
June	106.4	103.3	110.5	101.9	104.7
September	108.2	103.3	111.4	102.8	105.7
December	109.0	103.4	112.0	106.2	107.0

(a) See note (b) on page 21.

Interim Retail Price Index Numbers.

(Base of Each Index : Year 1952-53 = 100.)

NOTE.—The index numbers hereunder are designed to measure aggregate variations in retail prices of specified groups of items for specified cities individually. They measure variations from time to time and not differences in price level as between cities nor comparative costs of groups of items.

City.	Year ended June, 1952.	Year ended June, 1953.	Year ended June, 1954.	Year ended June, 1955.	1954.	1955.				
					Dec. Qtr.	Mar. Qtr.	June Qtr.	Sept. Qtr.	Dec. Qtr.	
GROUP I.—FOOD.										
Sydney ..	89.9	100 0	102.4	103.6	102.8	104.6	105.1	106.5	107.2	
Melbourne ..	89.1	100 0	104.6	104.3	103.4	104.8	106.2	110.1	111.5	
Brisbane ..	90.1	100 0	104.1	104.2	103.3	105.2	106.0	106.8	105.6	
Adelaide ..	90.5	100 0	103.5	106.2	104.9	106.5	108.2	109.2	109.7	
Perth ..	87.0	100 0	106.3	109.5	108.0	109.0	111.2	109.6	109.8	
Hobart ..	86.8	100 0	107.7	106.8	105.0	107.3	108.7	110.5	113.4	
Six Capitals(a)	89.4	100.0	103.7	104.6	103.7	105.3	106.4	108.2	109.0	

GROUP II.—CLOTHING AND DRAPERY.

Sydney ..	93.6	100.0	101.7	102.3	102.6	102.2	102.8	103.0	103.1	
Melbourne ..	93.4	100 0	101.3	102.2	101.9	102.2	103.6	103.8	103.9	
Brisbane ..	94.6	100 0	101.7	102.9	102.8	102.8	103.8	103.5	103.2	
Adelaide ..	93.9	100 0	102.2	102.9	102.7	103.1	103.9	102.8	103.3	
Perth ..	95.5	100 0	100.9	101.6	101.5	101.7	102.7	102.7	103.1	
Hobart ..	94.7	100 0	102.6	103.1	103.0	103.3	103.7	103.9	104.4	
Six Capitals(a)	93.8	100 0	101.6	102.4	102.3	102.4	103.3	103.3	103.4	

GROUP III.—RENT(b) (4 AND 5-ROOMED HOUSES).

Sydney ..	87.7	100.0	107.7	109.5	109.5	109.6	109.7	110.6	111.1	
Melbourne ..	99.6	100 0	100.8	102.3	101.8	102.3	102.3	102.7	102.9	
Brisbane ..	97.7	100 0	102.9	105.2	105.1	105.5	105.7	106.4	106.4	
Adelaide ..	86.0	100 0	102.7	105.6	104.5	105.0	109.3	112.1	113.6	
Perth ..	94.4	100 0	110.8	149.6	148.3	149.5	153.1	154.9	157.0	
Hobart ..	91.4	100 0	108.8	109.4	109.5	109.5	109.5	109.5	110.3	
Six Capitals(a)	92.6	100.0	105.0	109.6	109.3	109.7	110.5	111.4	112.0	

GROUP IV.—OTHER ITEMS.

Sydney ..	93.6	100 0	100.5	100.9	101.0	100.6	100.9	101.5	103.2	
Melbourne ..	88.7	100 0	100.9	101.3	100.9	101.3	101.8	102.9	110.1	
Brisbane ..	92.7	100 0	103.0	104.5	104.3	104.8	104.9	106.0	109.6	
Adelaide ..	90.2	100 0	99.3	99.9	99.3	99.4	101.7	102.7	102.7	
Perth ..	89.6	100 0	100.8	101.9	101.4	101.6	103.3	104.5	105.1	
Hobart ..	89.0	100 0	108.2	105.1	105.0	105.0	105.5	108.9	109.0	
Six Capitals(a)	91.3	100.0	100.9	101.4	101.2	101.2	101.9	102.8	106.2	

ALL GROUPS.

Sydney ..	91.7	100 0	102.2	103.1	102.9	103.4	103.8	104.6	105.4	
Melbourne ..	91.0	100 0	102.4	102.7	102.2	102.9	104.0	105.8	108.3	
Brisbane ..	92.7	100 0	103.0	104.0	103.6	104.5	105.1	105.6	106.0	
Adelaide ..	90.9	100 0	102.0	103.6	102.8	103.5	105.4	106.0	106.4	
Perth ..	90.7	100 0	103.9	109.6	108.7	109.3	111.2	111.1	111.6	
Hobart ..	89.9	100 0	106.6	105.6	104.9	105.8	106.6	108.2	109.6	
Six Capitals(a)	91.4	100.0	102.5	103.6	103.2	103.8	104.7	105.7	107.0	

(a) Weighted average.

(b) See note (b) on page 21.

§ 5. The "C" Series Retail Price Index : 1914 to 1955.

1. **Construction.**—Full particulars relating to the construction, items, weights and method of tabulation of the "C" Series Retail Price Index were last published in Labour Report No. 41, 1952, on pages 10-18. Tabular statements of index numbers were shown on pages 19-27, and historical particulars of the index, and its relation to automatic basic wage variations prior to 12th September, 1953, on pages 32-40.

2. **Significant Dates.**—The following table furnishes index numbers for the six capital cities as a whole, for certain significant dates since November, 1914—the earliest date for which this index is available.

"C" SERIES RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF SIX CAPITAL CITIES.

(Base : *Weighted average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.*)

1914, November	..	..	687 (Beginning of War I.)
1918, November	..	..	905 (End of War I.)
1920, November	..	..	1,166 (Post-War peak)
1922, November	..	..	975 (Post-War trough)
1929, Year	..	..	1,033 (Pre-Depression peak)
1933, Year	..	..	804 (Depression trough)
1939, September Quarter	..	..	916 (Pre-War II.)
1943, March Quarter	..	..	1,123 (Pre-Price Stabilization)
1943, June Quarter	..	..	1,143 (War II. peak)
1945, September Quarter	..	..	1,126 (End of War II.)
1948, September Quarter	..	..	1,311
1950, September Quarter	..	..	1,572
1952, September Quarter	..	..	2,238
1953, September Quarter	..	..	2,321
1954, December Quarter	..	..	2,333

The index rose by approximately 32 per cent. during the first world war and by a further 29 per cent. in the two post-war years (November, 1918 to November, 1920). From November, 1920 to November, 1922, there was a fall of 16 per cent., and the index remained relatively stable until the onset of the depression in 1929. During the four years of the depression 1929 to 1933 the index fell by 22 per cent., rising thereafter steadily until 1939 when it was nearly 14 per cent. above the level of 1933, and approximately at the level it had occupied at the date of the Armistice of 1918. Between the outbreak of war (September, 1939) and March, 1943 (pre-price stabilization), the index rose by approximately 23 per cent. to a level slightly below that reached at the height of the post-war boom in 1920. Compared with March Quarter, 1943, the index number at the close of the war was practically unchanged.

Immediately after the outbreak of the war, price control was established by the Government under Regulations dated 28th September, 1939, and a national policy of price stabilization was applied as from 12th April, 1943, backed by more stringent price control and price subsidies. The retail price level, as measured by the index, remained relatively steady throughout 1944 and 1945 at the level of March, 1943. This stabilized level was approximately 23 per cent. above that of 1939 and 63 per cent. above the level prevailing at the beginning of the first world war in 1914. After June Quarter, 1946, war-time controls, subsidies, etc., were progressively modified and by early 1949 had been virtually eliminated. In the latter part of 1950 export prices (especially for wool) rose very substantially and have remained relatively very high. In December, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration raised the basic wage by approximately 14 per cent. Concurrently, public works expenditure and private investment rose to very high levels.

This retail price index rose by 16 per cent. in the three years following the end of the 1939-45 War (i.e., to September Quarter, 1948) and by 77 per cent. in the next five years to September Quarter, 1953 and remained relatively stable at that level until December Quarter, 1954.

An account of price control measures and of price stabilization in Australia was published in *Official Year Book* No. 37, pages 458-464, and No. 40, pages 279-280.

3. Tabular Statements of "C" Series Retail Price Index, Six Capital Cities, 1914 to 1955.—Information relating to the "C" Series Retail Price index numbers is published as follows :—

Monthly.—The *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* contains annual and quarterly index numbers to the latest available date.

Quarterly.—Statements are issued about three weeks after the end of each quarter relating to the "C" Series Retail Price Index for that quarter and immediately preceding quarters. The *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* contains annual, quarterly and monthly index numbers to the latest available date. This publication also contains certain average prices of items of food and groceries for each month of the latest available quarter.

Annual.—In addition to the information published in the annual Labour Report the *Official Year Book* contains a brief summary concerning the index. The movement in the various groups of the index and in the index as a whole for each year for which it has been compiled is shown in the following table for the six capital cities combined :—

"C" Series Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index Numbers (a) for the Six Capital Cities combined.

(Base of Each Group : Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.				Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5-roomed Houses). (b)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total "C" Series Index.
1914 (c)	..	..	..	641	649	754	749	687
1915 (c)	..	..	..	842	659	792	786	782
1916 (c)	..	..	..	812	665	881	802	795
1917 (c)	..	..	..	836	685	992	882	847
1918 (c)	..	..	..	861	722	1,097	972	905
1919 (c)	..	..	..	1,026	768	1,238	1,036	1,022
1920 (c)	..	..	..	1,209	851	1,365	1,194	1,166
1921 (c)	..	..	..	950	877	1,246	1,010	1,013
1922 (c)	..	..	..	945	929	1,052	999	975
1923 ..	..	..	..	1,009	950	1,045	999	1,003
1924 ..	..	..	..	969	988	1,003	1,004	987
1925 ..	..	..	..	998	1,008	991	992	997
1926 ..	..	..	..	1,023	1,026	986	998	1,011
1927 ..	..	..	..	1,000	1,030	975	1,008	1,002
1928 ..	..	..	..	985	1,066	997	1,010	1,009
1929 ..	..	..	..	1,044	1,073	996	1,007	1,033
1930 ..	..	..	..	941	1,047	951	999	975
1931 ..	..	..	..	826	901	853	973	873
1932 ..	..	..	..	796	817	804	958	830
1933 ..	..	..	..	751	804	787	950	804
1934 ..	..	..	..	783	810	785	944	817
1935 ..	..	..	..	806	839	783	946	832
1936 ..	..	..	..	825	879	792	947	850
1937 ..	..	..	..	851	912	811	960	873
1938 ..	..	..	..	886	942	829	961	897
1939 ..	..	..	..	927	965	841	962	920
1940 ..	..	..	..	939	973	956	998	957
1941 ..	..	..	..	947	976	1,118	1,060	1,008
1942 ..	..	..	..	1,031	976	1,308	1,112	1,091
1943 ..	..	..	..	1,037	975	1,440	1,160	1,131
1944 ..	..	..	..	1,026	976	1,435	1,165	1,126
1945 ..	..	..	..	1,034	975	1,425	1,161	1,126
1946 ..	..	..	..	1,036	976	1,505	1,167	1,145
1947 ..	..	..	..	1,100	977	1,566	1,199	1,188
1948 ..	..	..	..	1,256	979	1,744	1,257	1,295
1949 ..	..	..	..	1,394	982	1,997	1,338	1,415
1950 ..	..	..	..	1,566	987	2,286	1,435	1,560
1951 ..	..	..	..	2,041	1,009	2,749	1,679	1,883
1952 ..	..	..	..	2,526	1,057	3,096	1,958	2,196
1953 ..	..	..	..	2,641	1,138	3,223	2,053	2,302
1954 ..	..	..	..	2,671	1,192	3,218	2,062	2,326
1955 ..	..	..	..	2,811	1,226	3,237	2,081	2,393

(a) See note (a) on following page.

(b) See note (b) on following page.

(c) November.

"C" Series Retail Price Index and its "Group" Index Numbers (a) for the Six Capital Cities combined—continued.

(Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1923-27 = 1,000.)

Period.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5-roomed Houses). (b)	Clothing.	Miscellaneous.	Total, "C" Series Index.
Quarter—					
1939—September ..	920	967	836	961	916
1945—September ..	1,040	975	1,415	1,161	1,126
1946—March ..	1,036	976	1,456	1,164	1,134
June ..	1,042	976	1,494	1,167	1,145
September ..	1,029	976	1,521	1,167	1,146
December ..	1,037	976	1,550	1,170	1,156
1947—March ..	1,071	976	1,525	1,181	1,165
June ..	1,088	976	1,534	1,184	1,174
September ..	1,104	977	1,566	1,213	1,192
December ..	1,138	977	1,639	1,217	1,221
1948—March ..	1,190	978	1,661	1,231	1,248
June ..	1,229	979	1,720	1,248	1,278
September ..	1,274	979	1,778	1,271	1,311
December ..	1,330	980	1,818	1,277	1,341
1949—March ..	1,361	981	1,849	1,304	1,364
June ..	1,388	981	1,963	1,325	1,403
September ..	1,396	982	2,043	1,345	1,428
December ..	1,429	983	2,132	1,378	1,466
1950—March ..	1,473	984	2,156	1,402	1,491
June ..	1,520	986	2,261	1,413	1,534
September ..	1,582	987	2,316	1,432	1,572
December ..	1,689	989	2,410	1,492	1,643
1951—March ..	1,790	1,004	2,487	1,564	1,713
June ..	1,925	1,007	2,746	1,641	1,833
September ..	2,136	1,010	2,833	1,715	1,943
December ..	2,311	1,013	2,930	1,794	2,042
1952—March ..	2,404	1,023	2,992	1,828	2,098
June ..	2,567	1,041	3,099	1,949	2,206
September ..	2,592	1,070	3,115	2,018	2,238
December ..	2,542	1,094	3,177	2,035	2,243
1953—March ..	2,572	1,122	3,200	2,048	2,268
June ..	2,605	1,136	3,245	2,051	2,293
September ..	2,686	1,144	3,228	2,054	2,321
December ..	2,702	1,151	3,217	2,060	2,327
1954—March ..	2,683	1,162	3,228	2,070	2,327
June ..	2,670	1,191	3,212	2,061	2,324
September ..	2,654	1,205	3,210	2,058	2,321
December ..	2,677	1,209	3,222	2,060	2,333
1955—March ..	2,730	1,213	3,218	2,046	2,349
June ..	2,770	1,222	3,240	2,070	2,375
September ..	2,854	1,232	3,243	2,081	2,411
December ..	2,891	1,238	3,248	2,128	2,435

(a) "Group" index numbers in the above table cannot be compared with each other in order to show the relative cost of Food and Groceries, Housing, Clothing or Miscellaneous requirements, since each "Group" has its own Base = 1,000, viz., the weighted average cost for the six capital cities as a whole during the five-year period 1923-27. (b) Rent. The rent index numbers shown in the tables in this Report measure the proportionate rise and fall in the average weekly rentals paid for houses of four and five rooms, taking corresponding houses throughout. They are "price" indexes in the strict sense, i.e., they are designed to measure only the "price" element in rent fluctuations. Rentals of new tenanted houses completed since the end of the war are not taken into account.

§ 6 International Comparisons : Retail Price Index Numbers.

A.—The following table shows the increases in retail prices in Australia and certain other countries since the quarter during which the 1939-45 War commenced. In this section, the index used for Australia is of necessity the "C" Series Retail Price Index. The figures show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

Retail Price Index Numbers.

(FOOD, RENT, CLOTHING, MISCELLANEOUS HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE.)

(Base : September Quarter, 1939 = 100.)

Period.	Australia.	United Kingdom.	Canada.	New Zealand.	Union of South Africa.(a)	United States of America.
1939—						
September Quarter	100	100	100	100	100	100
1940—Year.. ..	105	119	105	104	104	100
1941— " " " "	110	104	111	108	109	105
1942— " " " "	119	129	116	111	118	116
1943— " " " "	124	128	117	114	126	125
1944— " " " "	123	129	118	116	130	123
1945— " " " "	123	131	119	118	133	127
1946— " " " "	125	131	123	119	135	138
1947— " " " "	130	102(b)	134	122	141	158
1948— " " " "	141	108	154	132	149	170
1949— " " " "	155	111	160	134(c)	154	168
1950— " " " "	170	114	165	142	160	171
1951— " " " "	206	124	183	157	172	185
1952— " " " "	240	136	186	170	187	189
1953— " " " "	251	140	184	177	194	190
1954— " " " "	254	143	185	186	197	191
1955— " " " "	261	149	185	190	204	191
1954—March Quarter	254	140	184	183	194	191
June " " "	254	142	184	186	196	191
Sept. " " "	253	143	186	187	197	191
Dec. " " "	255	145	186	186	200	190
1955—March Quarter	256	146	185	189	202	190
June " " "	259	148	185	190	203	190
Sept. " " "	263	150	185	191	204	191
Dec. " " "	266	153	186	191	205	191

(a) Food, Rent and Miscellaneous Expenditure. (b) New Series (Base: 17th June, 1947 = 100) commencing from September quarter, 1947. (c) Consumers' (Retail) Price Index from March quarter, 1919, onwards. Index numbers for earlier periods (shown for purposes of comparison) are obtained by linking the movement in the Retail Price Index (Base 1926-30) with the new index.

B.—The following tables give index numbers of retail prices for various countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices for the year 1953 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries.(a)

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)

(Base: 1953 = 100.)

FOOD, CLOTHING, RENT AND MISCELLANEOUS.

Period.	ARGENTINA (Buenos Aires).	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.(b)	BRAZIL (Sao Paulo).	CANADA.	DENMARK.(c)	FRANCE (Paris).	GERMANY (Western).	INDIA.	IRELAND.(d)	ITALY.
1948	31	56	95	62	84	81	60	93	..	79	86
1950	51	68	91	64	(e) 89	87	77	93	95	81	86
1951	69	(e) 82	99	70	98	97	91	100	98	87	94
1952	96	96	100	82	101	100	101	102	97	95	98
1953	100	100	(e) 100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1954	104	101	101	118	101	101	100	100	95	100	103
1955	117	104	101	140	101	107	101	102	90	103	106
1955—											
March Qtr. ..	114	102	100	132	101	103	101	101	90	101	104
June	115	103	100	137	101	105	101	101	87	102	106
Sept.	117	104	101	142	101	107	100	102	90	103	106
Dec.	120	105	102	147	101	109	102	104	92	105	106

Period.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS. (f)	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PAKISTAN (Karachi).	PHILIPPINES (Manila).	SWEDEN.	SWITZERLAND.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.(g)	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
1948	62	77	74	74	(h) 89	105	77	96	77	77	90
1950	77	(e) 89	(e) 80	(e) 78	85	(e) 102	79	(e) 94	83	81	90
1951	(e) 89	(e) 99	89	90	88	111	92	98	89	89	97
1952	94	100	96	98	90	103	99	101	97	(e) 97	99
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(e) 100
1954	106	104	105	105	98	99	(i) 101	101	102	102	100
1955	105	106	107	106	94	97	104	102	105	107	100
1955—											
March Qtr. ..	106	107	106	105	95	98	101	101	104	104	100
June	106	106	107	106	92	97	103	101	105	106	100
Sept.	105	106	108	106	95	97	104	102	105	107	100
Dec.	104	106	108	106	95	97	107	102	106	109	100

(a) The index numbers in the above table are based mainly on the prices of food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous items. (b) Rent is not included. (c) Includes direct taxes. (d) Base: August, 1953 = 100.

(e) New index linked to former index.

(f) 1948, including direct taxes.

(g) Europeans only. Including direct taxes.

(h) April, 1948–March, 1949.

(i) July–December.

Index Numbers of Retail Prices in Various Countries—*continued.*

(Base: 1953 = 100.)

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

Period.	ARGENTINA (Buenos Aires).	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.	BRAZIL (Sao Paulo).	CANADA.	DENMARK (a)	FRANCE (Paris).	GERMANY (Western).	INDIA.	INDONESIA (Jakarta).	IRELAND (b)
1948	29	47	97	58	87	72	68	82	..	47	78
1950	49	59	90	60	(c) 91	85	(c) 80	89	93	53	78
1951	67	(c) 76	96	63	104	94	93	97	96	89	83
1952	97	95	99	76	104	100	102	102	94	94	92
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(c) 100
1954	99	101	103	121	100	104	98	102	93	106	100
1955	110	105	102	143	100	111	99	104	85	141	104
1955—											
March Qtr. ..	107	103	101	139	99	107	99	103	85	126	102
June	108	104	100	141	99	108	99	103	82	135	103
Sept.	110	106	102	143	100	112	97	103	86	143	104
Dec.	115	107	103	150	100	114	100	105	88	158	106

Period.	ITALY.	JAPAN.	NETHERLANDS. (d)	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PAKISTAN (Karachi)	PHILIPPINES (Manila).	SWEDEN (e)	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA (f)	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
1948	91	70	74	66	(g) 8	(g) 90	114	72	69	100	92
1950	88	79	(c) 90	(c) 74	(c) 73	84	(c) 103	74	76	113	90
1951	94	(c) 91	(c) 96	86	87	89	111	87	81	126	100
1952	98	94	99	94	98	93	106	98	95	(h) 95	102
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	(c) 100
1954	103	108	104	105	108	98	99	(c) 100	101	103	100
1955	106	105	106	108	107	95	98	105	104	110	98
1955—											
March Qtr. ..	104	106	107	106	107	95	98	100	103	107	98
June	106	106	106	108	107	93	96	103	104	109	99
Sept.	106	104	106	108	108	95	97	107	104	111	99
Dec.	106	103	104	108	107	97	99	110	104	114	97

(a) Including direct taxes. (b) Base: August, 1953 = 100. (c) New index linked to former index. (d) 1948, including direct taxes. (e) 1954: July–December. (f) Europeans only. (g) April, 1948–March, 1949. (h) Base: 15th January, 1952 = 100; cannot be linked to former series.

CHAPTER II.—WHOLESALE PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES.

§ 1. General.

Two indexes of wholesale prices are compiled by the Bureau. These are—

- (i) The Melbourne Wholesale Price Index ;
- (ii) The Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

Particulars of the Melbourne Wholesale Price Index, which is now obsolescent, are given in § 3 commencing on page 27 below.

After reviewing the list of items and weighting of this index the 1930 Conference of Statisticians resolved that a new index of Wholesale Prices of Basic Materials and Foodstuffs should be compiled. This index extends back to the year 1928 and is compiled monthly. This Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index is one of a series of wholesale price indexes designed for special purposes.

§ 2. Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

1. **Price Quotations.**—The prices used in the index have in the main been obtained directly from manufacturers and merchants, and, with a few important exceptions, from Melbourne sources. Apart from locally produced building materials and one or two minor commodities, however, the price movements may be taken as representative of variations in wholesale prices of basic materials in most Australian markets.

Commodities in the index are priced in their primary or basic form wherever possible and in respect of imported materials as nearly as may be at the point where they first make effective impact on the local price structure. Thus the price of imported goods is not taken at the time of import, but rather on an ex-bond (or into factory) basis.

Broadly, where home-consumption prices exist for local products, they have been used in this index. During the year 1950-51 wool for local manufacture was subsidized. The home-consumption price for wool was used to calculate the index numbers shown in the table on page 27.

2. **Commodities and Grouping.**—For purposes of this index "basic" materials (as opposed to certain of the foodstuffs) are commodities in the primary or basic forms in which they first enter into productive processes carried out in Australia. The list of items comprises 80 commodities, divided into seven main groups. Each group is sub-divided into goods which are mainly imported, and goods which are mainly home-produced. A full list of these commodities is set out below, showing the quantity-multipliers (weights) for each commodity, and the percentage of the total aggregate value in 1950 contributed by each commodity and group.

3. **Method of Construction.**—The index is constructed on the simple aggregative fixed-weights formula. The weights (quantity-multipliers) are based on estimates of the average annual consumption of the commodities in Australia during the period 1928-29 to 1934-35 inclusive. Changes in usage, changes of category as between "imported" and "home-produced" for some commodities, and changes in the industrial structure have affected the validity of some of the weights in the index. These and other problems (e.g., dual prices for some commodities) are being examined with a view to revision of the list of items, its grouping and weighting, when conditions are more stable.

Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index.

List of Commodities, Units of Measurement, Quantity-multipliers, and Percentage of Total Aggregate in 1950.

Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity-multiplier. (Weight.)	Per-centage of Total Aggregate 1950.	Commodity.	Unit.	Quantity-multiplier. (Weight.)	Per-centage of Total Aggregate 1950.
Metals and Coal—				Rubber and Hides—			
Principally Im-ported—				Principally Im-ported—			
Aluminium ..	ton	985	0.05	Rubber, crude	lb.	24,214,400	1.17
Principally Home-produced—				Principally Home-produced—			
Iron and steel ..	ton	637,000	3.19	Calf skins ..	lb.	4,455,000	0.06
Briquettes ..	ton	243,000	0.14	Cattle hides ..	lb.	57,246,000	0.48
Copper, wire bars ..	ton	7,000	0.38	Tanning bark ..	ton	23,000	0.14
Coal ..	ton	9,300,000	11.21	Total ..	..	..	1.85
Lead, soft pig ..	ton	10,400	0.13				
Tin, ingots ..	ton	1,250	0.26	Building Materials—			
Zinc, ingots ..	ton	14,800	0.20	Principally Im-ported—			
Total ..	..	..	15.56	Timber, soft-woods ..	1,000 sup. ft.	346,500	5.00
Oils, Fats and Waxes—				Turpentine ..	gallon	458,000	0.07
Principally Im-ported—				Principally Home-produced—			
Coconut oil ..	ton	6,500	0.22	Bricks ..	1,000	372,000	0.82
Fuel oil ..	ton	170,000	0.70	Cement ..	ton	479,000	0.80
Linseed oil ..	gallon	2,250,000	0.68	Drain-pipes ..	foot	7,270,000	0.28
Lubricating oil ..	gallon	3,960,000	0.35	Glass, window ..	100 sq. ft.	82,370	0.06
Kerosene, power ..	gallon	21,000,000	0.50	Lime ..	ton	51,144	0.07
Petrol ..	gallon	218,000,000	8.45	Plaster ..	ton	53,000	0.18
Principally Home-produced—				Timber, hard-woods ..	100 sup. ft.	2,575,000	1.93
Beeswax ..	lb.	169,112	0.01	White lead ..	cwt.	60,000	0.09
Tallow ..	ton	26,000	0.23	Whiting ..	cwt.	274,000	0.08
Total ..	..	..	11.14	Total ..	..	..	9.38
Textiles—				Foodstuffs and Tobacco—			
Principally Im-ported—				Principally Im-ported—			
Hemp ..	ton	5,575	0.45	Tapioca ..	cwt.	719,000	0.59
Kapok ..	lb.	6,160,000	0.39	Cocoa, raw ..	cwt.	99,500	0.47
Jute fibre ..	ton	874	0.04	Coffee ..	lb.	3,469,000	0.23
Phormium tenax ..	ton	2,275	0.02	Tea ..	lb.	46,629,000	2.84
Silk, raw ..	lb.	455,900	0.20	Mustard ..	doz. lb.	47,000	0.02
Principally Home-produced—				Herrings ..	doz. lb.	276,000	0.08
Cotton, raw ..	lb.	15,900,000	0.61	Salmon ..	doz. lb.	1,048,000	0.71
Wool, greasy ..	lb.	50,200,000	4.50	Sild ..	doz.	807,300	0.16
Total ..	..	..	6.21	Tobacco, leaf ..	4-oz. tins	17,451,000	7.21
Chemicals—				Principally Home-produced—			
Principally Im-ported—				Barley ..	bushel	4,940,000	0.50
Ammonium sul-plate ..	ton	23,830	0.16	Maize ..	bushel	315,000	0.05
Potash, muriate ..	ton	4,055	0.04	Oats ..	bushel	14,970,000	1.43
Potash, sul-plate ..	ton	2,025	0.02	Rice ..	cwt.	323,200	0.19
Soda ash ..	ton	21,400	0.13	Wheat ..	bushel	39,900,000	3.75
Soda, nitrate ..	ton	1,100	0.01	Onions ..	ton	41,000	0.25
Soda, nitrate—Chilean ..	ton	3,600	0.03	Peas ..	bushel	544,000	0.18
Sulphur ..	ton	95,500	0.79	Potatoes ..	ton	348,000	2.28
Principally Home-produced—				Sugar ..	ton	336,000	3.87
Arsenic ..	ton	1,531	0.03	Beef ..	100 lb.	7,004,750	8.88
Blood and bone ..	ton	34,431	0.11	Lamb ..	lb.	83,119,000	1.54
Methylated spirits ..	gallon	2,374,000	0.09	Mutton ..	lb.	436,414,000	4.65
Soda crystals ..	ton	4,986	0.02	Pork ..	lb.	47,562,000	1.24
Superphosphate ..	ton	704,144	1.65	Butter fat ..	lb.	194,500,000	5.28
Sulphuric acid ..	ton	226,450	0.87	Lard ..	lb.	1,427,000	0.02
Total ..	..	..	3.95	Milk ..	gallon	159,900,000	4.70
				Currants ..	lb.	9,900,000	0.14
				Sultanas ..	lb.	18,000,000	0.28
				Grapes ..	ton	94,000	0.37
				Total ..	..	..	51.91
				All Groups—			
				Principally Imported ..	..	..	31.78
				Principally Home-produced ..	..	..	68.22
				Total ..	..	..	100.00

4. **Index Numbers.**—Index numbers for each group of commodities and for all groups combined for the index of wholesale prices of basic materials and foodstuffs are given in the following table. Current index numbers, on the base : Average of three years ended June, 1939 = 100, are published in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*.

Wholesale Price (Basic Materials and Foodstuffs) Index Numbers.

(Base of each Group : Year 1928 = 100.)

Period.	Basic Materials.							Food-stuffs and Tobacco.	Basic Materials and Foodstuffs.		
	Metals and Coal.	Oils, Fats and Waxes.	Textiles.	Chemicals.	Rubber and Hides.	Building Materials.	Total.		Goods principally Imported. (a)	Goods principally Home Produced.	All Groups.
1928	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1929	100	102	83	98	77	98	98	107	101	103	103
1930	95	108	61	95	55	100	93	95	105	92	95
1931	89	109	57	98	58	101	92	81	111	79	87
1932	83	107	54	98	53	98	88	79	108	76	84
1933	82	88	62	95	56	100	83	78	101	75	81
1934	79	82	66	89	60	98	86	81	99	75	81
1935	74	88	62	82	59	97	79	85	103	76	83
1936	72	91	76	82	72	99	82	91	105	81	87
1937	79	95	87	82	89	110	91	93	113	84	91
1938	80	95	61	83	66	104	88	96	109	85	91
1939	81	97	65	84	76	105	90	95	111	86	92
1940	84	123	78	97	93	127	104	100	134	90	101
1941	88	134	82	106	98	137	112	104	156	91	107
1942	97	151	93	116	104	154	125	119	180	101	120
1943	103	160	110	118	106	181	135	121	199	103	126
1944	103	160	108	118	106	183	135	122	200	104	127
1945	103	153	108	117	106	184	133	126	198	106	128
1946	102	142	119	116	104	187	131	128	194	107	128
1947	107	142	165	116	94	194	137	137	202	114	135
1948	129	159	234	127	100	204	157	156	217	135	155
1949	160	166	254	138	96	213	175	175	225	156	173
1950	179	179	382	179	155	258	208	202	263	183	203
1951	235	196	475	229	248	327	261	246	299	235	251
1952	299	216	408	277	193	432	304	275	325	273	286
1953	307	217	467	279	154	394	301	292	307	289	293
1954	305	204	387	260	154	380	290	290	296	284	287
1955	314	203	341	259	228	411	298	305	312	294	299
1955—											
January ..	310	203	360	259	179	383	291	289	306	281	287
February ..	311	203	363	259	194	391	293	297	309	287	292
March ..	312	202	364	259	200	399	295	302	309	292	296
April ..	312	202	356	259	205	406	296	298	310	289	294
May ..	312	202	357	259	222	408	297	302	311	292	297
June ..	311	202	349	259	231	417	298	307	314	295	300
July ..	312	202	349	259	232	417	299	314	308	302	304
August ..	312	203	325	259	244	418	298	312	309	301	303
September ..	319	203	317	259	251	418	300	312	318	299	303
October ..	319	203	317	259	254	418	301	309	317	297	302
November ..	318	203	314	261	262	427	302	314	319	301	305
December ..	318	204	321	261	259	427	303	310	319	298	303

(a) Represents only such imported commodities as are included in the Wholesale Price Index and does not measure changes in price of all imports.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally.

§ 3. Melbourne Wholesale Price Index.

1. **General.**—An index of Melbourne wholesale prices was first computed in 1912. It relates chiefly to basic materials and foods weighted in accordance with consumption in the years immediately preceding that date. Neither the list of items nor the weighting has been varied. Consequently, the index is outmoded for current use and is a measure of variations in wholesale prices based on the weighting originally determined. It has some historic significance as a measure of changes in the prices of its component items combined in the proportions in which they were in common use

about the year 1910. It is now published only on an annual basis and is used mainly as an approximate indication of long-term trends since the year 1861, for which it was first compiled. A description of the index and a list of the commodities included in it were published in Labour Report No. 38, 1949, pages 43-45.

2. Index Numbers—1861 to 1953 (1911 base).—Index numbers for each group of commodities, as well as for all groups combined, are shown in the following table:—

Melbourne Wholesale Price Index Numbers.

(Base of each Group: Year 1911 = 1,000.)

Year.	Metals and Coal.	Wool, Cotton, Leather, &c.	Agricultural Produce, &c.	Dairy Produce.	Groceries.	Meat.	Building Materials.	Chemicals.	All Groups.
1861 ..	1,438	1,381	1,583	1,008	1,963	..	1,070	2,030	1,538
1871 ..	1,096	1,257	1,236	864	1,586	..	1,044	1,409	1,229
1881 ..	1,178	1,115	1,012	935	1,421	..	1,091	1,587	1,121
1891 ..	895	847	1,024	995	1,032	888	780	1,194	945
1901 ..	1,061	774	928	1,029	1,048	1,345	841	917	974
1902 ..	1,007	756	1,192	1,215	945	1,447	837	881	1,051
1903 ..	923	834	1,209	1,059	936	1,443	875	921	1,049
1904 ..	821	885	754	876	916	1,427	845	875	890
1905 ..	772	850	894	980	942	1,209	809	859	910
1906 ..	882	978	916	972	923	1,110	896	864	948
1907 ..	1,037	1,017	973	1,020	948	1,294	968	961	1,021
1908 ..	1,033	901	1,312	1,198	968	1,335	935	891	1,115
1909 ..	1,014	907	1,000	1,119	978	1,088	911	815	993
1910 ..	1,004	1,052	969	1,100	999	1,008	996	898	1,003
1911 ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1912 ..	1,021	991	1,370	1,206	1,052	1,357	1,057	978	1,170
1913 ..	1,046	1,070	1,097	1,054	1,024	1,252	1,128	995	1,188
1914 ..	1,099	1,032	1,207	1,137	1,021	1,507	1,081	1,253	1,149
1915 ..	1,284	1,017	2,162	1,530	1,133	2,435	1,275	1,528	1,604
1916 ..	1,695	1,423	1,208	1,485	1,322	2,515	1,491	1,760	1,504
1917 ..	2,129	2,008	1,157	1,423	1,343	2,403	1,884	2,171	1,662
1918 ..	2,416	2,360	1,444	1,454	1,422	2,385	2,686	3,225	1,934
1919 ..	2,121	2,363	1,987	1,651	1,514	2,342	2,852	2,896	2,055
1920 ..	2,302	2,625	2,460	2,213	1,920	3,279	3,226	2,834	2,483
1921 ..	2,173	1,361	1,767	2,000	1,977	2,158	2,733	2,303	1,903
1922 ..	1,941	1,681	1,628	1,648	1,869	1,787	2,005	1,965	1,758
1923 ..	1,826	2,148	1,778	1,840	1,746	2,579	2,024	1,933	1,944
1924 ..	1,835	2,418	1,647	1,655	1,721	2,223	1,814	1,806	1,885
1925 ..	1,851	1,966	1,796	1,636	1,723	2,212	1,711	1,790	1,844
1926 ..	1,938	1,582	2,001	1,784	1,730	1,931	1,664	1,816	1,832
1927 ..	1,962	1,650	1,826	1,823	1,724	2,111	1,623	1,866	1,817
1928 ..	1,912	1,781	1,726	1,751	1,707	2,015	1,744	1,923	1,792
1929 ..	1,912	1,555	1,793	1,854	1,689	2,245	1,755	1,943	1,803
1930 ..	1,867	1,127	1,484	1,627	1,666	2,024	1,875	1,982	1,596
1931 ..	1,826	1,040	1,121	1,398	1,794	1,512	2,025	2,166	1,429
1932 ..	1,736	998	1,230	1,304	1,766	1,351	2,043	2,127	1,411
1933 ..	1,713	1,118	1,175	1,194	1,714	1,485	2,061	2,105	1,409
1934 ..	1,660	1,261	1,288	1,274	1,735	1,540	2,015	2,017	1,471
1935 ..	1,602	1,217	1,344	1,325	1,720	1,508	1,964	1,996	1,469
1936 ..	1,566	1,330	1,480	1,351	1,731	1,684	1,969	1,997	1,543
1937 ..	1,772	1,406	1,604	1,451	1,750	1,678	2,430	2,006	1,656
1938 ..	1,746	1,051	1,789	1,549	1,747	1,871	2,238	2,059	1,662
1939 ..	1,758	1,101	1,820	1,557	1,752	1,710	2,220	2,075	1,665
1940 ..	1,854	1,361	1,567	1,567	1,784	1,882	2,890	2,298	1,713
1941 ..	1,960	1,402	1,721	1,554	1,883	1,776	3,138	2,527	1,796
1942 ..	2,146	1,507	1,900	1,665	1,938	2,312	3,409	2,437	1,977
1943 ..	2,272	1,945	1,964	1,716	1,939	2,366	3,764	2,442	2,117
1944 ..	2,278	1,967	2,052	1,721	1,949	2,470	3,768	2,442	2,159
1945 ..	2,270	1,960	2,259	1,726	1,967	2,560	3,770	2,527	2,228
1946 ..	2,262	2,062	1,951	1,722	1,977	2,589	3,772	2,614	2,162
1947 ..	2,390	2,690	2,019	1,763	2,174	2,748	3,800	2,843	2,360
1948 ..	2,829	3,619	2,383	2,104	2,435	2,976	4,631	3,180	2,824
1949 ..	3,502	3,066	2,876	2,309	2,558	3,356	4,611	3,221	3,191
1950 ..	3,902	5,464	3,155	2,459	2,829	4,616	(a) 5,567	3,263	3,816
1951 ..	5,080	7,943	4,512	2,930	2,850	6,438	(a) 7,074	3,294	5,098
1952 ..	6,481	7,365	5,038	4,024	3,455	6,289	(a) 9,338	3,723	5,647
1953 ..	6,635	6,950	4,958	4,533	3,767	6,303	(a) 8,519	4,691 (b)	5,631

(a) The list of items and weighting of the original Building Materials group of this index are outmoded in respect of recent years. The movement shown here for this group between 1949 and 1953 has been calculated in accordance with the movement occurring in the Building Materials group of the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index.

(b) The "All Groups" index number for the year 1954 was 5,384.

NOTE.—The figures given in this table are comparable in the vertical columns, but are not directly comparable horizontally.

§ 4. International Comparisons: Wholesale Price Index Numbers.

The following table gives index numbers of wholesale prices during the period 1948 to December, 1955, for Australia and other countries. Except where otherwise noted, the average prices in each country for the year 1953 are taken as base (= 100). The figures, which have been taken from the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* published by the Statistical Office of the United Nations, show fluctuations in prices in each country, and do not measure relative price levels as between the various countries included.

Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Various Countries.

(Source: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics* of the Statistical Office of the United Nations.)

(Base: 1953 = 100.)

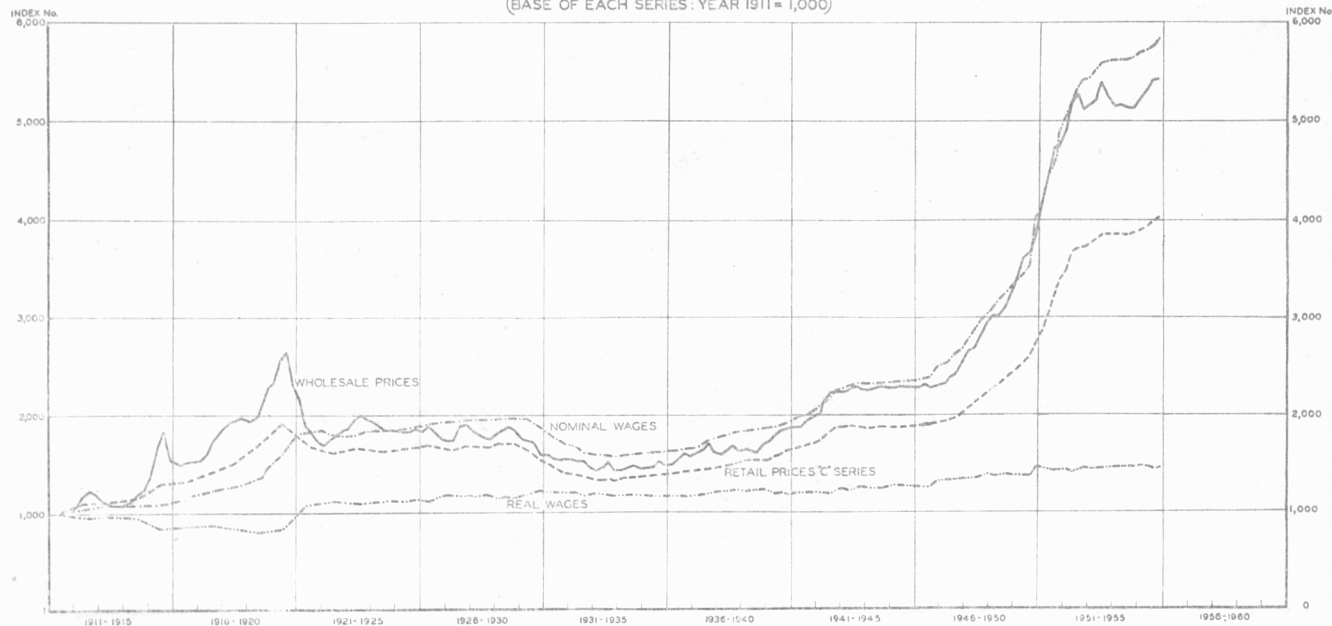
Period.	AUSTRALIA.	BELGIUM.	BRAZIL.	CANADA.	DENMARK.	FRANCE.	GERMANY (Westgm).	INDIA.	INDONESIA (Djakarta). (a)	IRELAND. (b)
1948	53	94	53	88	74	65	(e) 90	93	28	78
1950	70	93	66	96	86	(d) 78	85	102	72	82
1951	86	113	79	109	109	100	100	112	99	95
1952	97	107	87	102	107	105	103	98	94	100
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1954	98	99	130	98	100	98	98	98	109	(e) 106
1955	102	101	147	99	103	98	101	90	145	110
1955—										
March Qtr. ..	100	100	142	99	102	98	100	91	135	110
June	101	101	144	99	103	97	100	87	154	111
Sept.	103	101	149	100	103	98	101	90	152	108
Dec.	104	101	153	100	105	99	101	93	137	111

Period.	ITALY.	JAPAN (Tokyo).	NETHERLANDS.	NEW ZEALAND.	NORWAY.	PHILIPPINES (Manila).	SWEDEN.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
1948	104	36	75	72	66	140	72	67	67	95
1950	93	70	87	78	76	(d) 98	76	76	80	94
1951	106	97	107	91	94	110	100	86	97	104
1952	100	(d) 100	104	101	100	101	106	99	100	101
1953	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1954	101	99	101	99	101	95	100	101	101	100
1955	101	98	102	100	102	93	104	104	104	100
1955—										
March Qtr. ..	101	99	102	100	101	93	101	102	103	100
June	101	97	101	100	101	91	103	103	102	100
Sept.	100	97	101	100	103	92	105	104	104	101
Dec.	102	98	102	101	102	93	106	105	106	101

(a) Imported goods only. (b) Beginning 1954, base: January, 1952 = 100. (c) July-December. (d) New index linked to former index. (e) Beginning 1954, home-produced goods only.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES, NOMINAL, AND EFFECTIVE OR REAL WAGES - INDEX NUMBERS AUSTRALIA, 1911 to 1955

(BASE OF EACH SERIES: YEAR 1911 = 1,000)



EXPLANATION.—The index numbers in the graph above are for the Six Capital Cities as a whole, with the exception of those for Wholesale Prices up to the fourth quarter of 1927, which are for Melbourne. The wholesale prices graph shows the trend of prices according to the "old" Melbourne Index up to the fourth quarter of 1927, but thereafter, this index having been "spliced" with the Basic Materials and Foodstuffs Index, the curve line moves in accordance with the variations of the latter. The price quotations for this index are, in the main, obtained from Melbourne sources, but their movements may be taken as representative of fluctuations in most Australian markets. For the period 1911-1914 the "C" Series index numbers are taken back from the true base (November, 1914 = 1,000) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of All Houses). Real wages are computed on the basis of the "C" Series Retail Price Index.

CHAPTER III.—WAGES AND HOURS.

§ 1. Arbitration and Wages Boards Acts and Associated Legislation.

1. **General.**—Particulars regarding the operation of Commonwealth and State Acts for the regulation of wages, hours and conditions of labour were first compiled for the year 1913 and revised particulars have appeared annually in each issue of the Labour Report.

2. **Laws Regulating Industrial Matters.**—The principal Acts in force regulating rates of wage, hours of labour, and working conditions generally in both Commonwealth and State jurisdictions at the end of 1954 are listed below :—

COMMONWEALTH.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-1952.
 Defence Transition (Residual Provisions) Act 1952.
 Public Service Arbitration Act 1920-1952.
 Coal Industry Act 1946-1952.
 Stevedoring Industry Act 1949-1954.
 Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1949-1952.
 Navigation Act 1912-1953.

STATES.

New South Wales ..	Industrial Arbitration Act 1940-1954. Coal Industry Act 1946-1951.
Victoria	Labour and Industry Act 1953.
Queensland	Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts, 1932 to 1953.
South Australia ..	Industrial Code, 1920-1951.
Western Australia ..	Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1952. Mining Act 1904-1952.
Tasmania	Wages Boards Act 1920-1951.

3. **Methods of Administration.**—(i) *Commonwealth*—(a) *Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act.*—Under placitum (xxxv) of section 51 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, the Commonwealth Parliament is empowered to make laws with respect to “conciliation and arbitration for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes extending beyond the limits of any one State”. The Parliament has made such a law, namely, the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

This Act defines “an industrial dispute” as a “dispute (including a threatened, impending or probable dispute) as to industrial matters, which extends beyond the limits of any one State and a situation which is likely to give rise to a dispute as to industrial matters which so extends”. Such disputes are dealt with, in part, by a Court constituted under the Act, and otherwise by Conciliation Commissioners appointed under the Act. At the present time, the Court comprises a Chief Judge and six other Judges, whilst there is a Chief Conciliation Commissioner and nine other Conciliation Commissioners.

The Act provides that where a State award or determination is inconsistent with an award issued by the Commonwealth Authority, the latter shall prevail, and the Commonwealth Court can also restrain a State Authority from proceeding in a matter already covered, or being dealt with, by the Commonwealth Authority.

During the 1939-45 War, the powers of the Court were considerably enlarged under National Security (Industrial Peace) Regulations to secure the prompt settlement of industrial disputes. The Defence Transition (Residual Provisions) Act 1952 provides for the continuation of awards, orders, determinations or decisions made under these National Security Regulations unless revoked by a Commonwealth or State industrial authority.

The allocation of the respective powers and functions of the Court and the Conciliation Commissioners is defined by Statute. The Court deals with industrial disputes in so far as they concern the standard hours of work in an industry, the basic wage for both adult males and adult females and questions relating to long service leave with pay, but all other matters in dispute are dealt with by a Conciliation Commissioner. There is, however, provision for a Conciliation Commissioner to refer any dispute or any part of a dispute to the Court for determination, but a Conciliation Commissioner is entitled to so refer a matter only if he is of the opinion, and if the Chief Judge concurs in that opinion, that the matter is one of such importance that, in the public interest, it should be dealt with by the Court.

In addition to the functions outlined above, the Act empowers the Court to make orders concerning the interpretation, and relating to the enforcement, of orders and awards. The Act also makes provision for the registration of associations of employees and employers, and certain powers in connexion therewith are, by the Act, given to the Court.

Although, in certain circumstances, there is a right of approach to the High Court with respect to decisions of the Court, the circumstances are very limited, and, for practical purposes, it can be said that decisions given by the Court are final. Decisions given by a Conciliation Commissioner, however, may be made the subject of appeal to the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration provided the party desiring to appeal can satisfy the Chief Judge, by way of application for leave to appeal, that the order or award the subject of the application deals with a matter of such importance that leave to appeal should, in the public interest, be granted.

Whilst many of the minor powers of the Court may be exercised by a Court constituted by one Judge, in all major matters, e.g., questions relating to the basic wage, standard hours of work, long service leave, applications concerning registered organizations and also appeals from orders or awards made by Conciliation Commissioners, the Court must be constituted by at least three Judges one of whom may be the Chief Judge.

The Conciliation Commissioners have been given wide powers, without technical and artificial hindrances, to go to the cause of impending industrial trouble in the particular industries to which they have been assigned and to endeavour to remove the cause of the trouble by conciliation between the parties. If this fails, the Conciliation Commissioner should then, but not until then, with no further formalities, act as arbitrator to prevent or settle the dispute by making an award or order. Prior to 1947, there was no division of work as between the Court and Conciliation Commissioners, a dispute being dealt with by either one or other part of the Tribunal, with the

exception that questions relating to the basic wage and standard hours could only be dealt with by at least three Judges of the Court sitting together. There was also, at that time, a right of appeal to the Court against a decision of a Conciliation Commissioner. The amending Act of 1947 brought about the division of work between the two parts of the Tribunal, and, at the same time, made decisions of Conciliation Commissioners final. However, a further amending Act passed in 1952 gives the Full Court (consisting of not less than three Judges) power to hear appeals from decisions of Conciliation Commissioners, from decisions of single Judges appointed to deal with industrial disputes in the maritime industry and the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme and from decisions of the Public Service Arbitrator. From 19th December, 1952, jurisdiction for the settlement of interstate disputes in the maritime industry has been transferred from a Conciliation Commissioner to a single Judge of the Court. The Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act 1951 also gives a single Judge of the Court power to hear and determine industrial disputes affecting employees working on this project.

The function of preventing and settling industrial disputes exercised by the Stevedoring Industry Commission from 1947 to 1949, in which latter year it was reconstituted as the Stevedoring Industry Board, is now vested in the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and is exercised by a single Judge, who may refer questions of law for the opinion of the Full Court.

(b) *Coal Industry Tribunal*.—The Coal Industry Tribunal was established under the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act 1946 and the New South Wales Coal Industry Act 1946 to consider and determine interstate disputes and, in respect of New South Wales only, intra-State disputes between the Australian Coal and Shale Employees' Federation and employers in the coal-mining industry.

Special war-time bodies were created to deal with specific aspects of the coal industry, reference to which was made in earlier issues of the Labour Report (see No. 41, page 53). Under amending legislation passed jointly by the Commonwealth and New South Wales Parliaments in 1951 the Tribunal was vested with authority to deal with all interstate industrial disputes in the coal-mining industry, irrespective of the trade union involved, and in the case of New South Wales intra-State disputes also. The Tribunal consists of one person who may appoint two assessors nominated by the parties to advise him in matters relating to any dispute. Subsidiary authorities are the Local Coal Authorities and Mine Conciliation Committees who may be appointed to assist in the prevention and settlement of certain disputes. An amendment to the Commonwealth Coal Industry Act passed in 1952 makes it obligatory for the Tribunal to use conciliation and arbitration to settle industrial disputes.

(c) *Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator*.—Wages, hours of labour and working conditions in the Commonwealth Public Service are regulated by the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator, under powers conferred by the Public Service Arbitration Act 1920-1952. The system of arbitration commenced to operate in 1912, cases being heard by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration as part of the ordinary work of that Court. From 1920, however, the control was transferred to the Arbitrator, who is appointed by the Government for a term of seven years, and who need not necessarily have legal qualifications. In 1952 amending legislation made provision for reference to the Full Court of matters of general importance and also for appeals from decisions of the Arbitrator.

(d) *Australian Capital Territory Industrial Board*.—The regulation of industrial matters in the Australian Capital Territory under a local Industrial Board commenced in the year 1922. An amending Ordinance gazetted on 19th May, 1940, however, abolished the Board and transferred its functions to authorities established by the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. A separate Registry of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration was established in Canberra. Industrial matters formerly dealt with by the Industrial Board are now determined by either the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration or the Conciliation Commissioner assigned to the Australian Capital Territory.

Details of the provisions relating to the Board during its period of jurisdiction may be found in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 37 (see No. 36, p. 51).

(ii) *States*—(a) *New South Wales*.—The controlling authority is the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, consisting of a President and five other Judges. Subsidiary tribunals are the Conciliation Commissioners, the Apprenticeship Commissioner, Conciliation Committees and Apprenticeship Councils constituted for particular industries. Each Conciliation Committee consists of a Conciliation Commissioner as chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees. The Apprenticeship Commissioner and the members of the Conciliation Committee for an industry constitute the Apprenticeship Council for the industry. These subsidiary tribunals may make awards binding on industries, but an appeal to the Industrial Commission may be made against any award. Special Commissioners with conciliatory powers only may be appointed. Compulsory control commenced in 1901, after the earlier Acts of 1892 and 1899 providing for voluntary submission of matters in dispute had proved abortive.

(b) *Victoria*.—The authorities are separate Wages Boards for the occupations and industries covered, each consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees, and a Court of Industrial Appeals, the latter presided over by a Judge of the County Court. The system was instituted in the State in 1896, and represented the first example in Australia of legal regulation of wage rates.

(c) *Queensland*.—The authority is the Industrial Court, consisting of a Judge of the Supreme Court and not more than four members appointed by the Governor in Council. Legal control was first instituted in 1907 with the passing of the Wages Board Act.

(d) *South Australia*.—The principal tribunal is called the Industrial Court; there are also Industrial Boards consisting of a chairman and equal numbers of representatives of employers and employees for the various industries, and a Board of Industry. The Court is composed of the President (a person eligible for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court) who may be joined by two assessors who must be employed in the industry concerned. Deputy Presidents may also be appointed. The "Living Wage" is declared by the Board of Industry, composed of the President or Deputy President of the Industrial Court and four Commissioners. Legal control was first instituted in 1900.

(e) *Western Australia*.—The system of control comprises an Arbitration Court, Industrial Boards, Conciliation Committees and a Conciliation Commissioner. Employers and employees are equally represented on both Boards and Committees. The Court consists of a Judge of the Supreme Court and two members. Commissioners may also be appointed by the Minister for the settlement of particular disputes. Legal control dates back to 1900.

Since 1949, legislation has provided for the appointment of a Western Australian Coal Industry Tribunal to settle intra-State disputes in the coal-mining industry in Western Australia. It was not, however, until April, 1952, that persons were appointed to the Tribunal. The Tribunal consists of a Chairman and four other members (two representatives each of employers and employees). Boards of reference may be appointed by the Tribunal and decisions of the Tribunal may be reviewed by the President of the Arbitration Court.

(f) *Tasmania*.—The authority consists of Wages Boards for separate industries, comprising a Chairman, appointed by the Governor, and equal numbers of representatives of employers and workers, appointed by the Minister administering the Act. The system was instituted in 1910.

4. **Awards, Determinations, and Agreements in Force.**—In each issue of the Labour Report from 1913-14 to 1947 (Reports Nos. 5-36) statistics were published of the number of awards, determinations made and industrial agreements filed, excluding variations, in each State and under Commonwealth legislation dealing with these matters. Statistics were also published, up to and including 1939, showing the number of awards, determinations and industrial agreements in force at the end of each year. These details are not now published because of the difficulty of obtaining precise data. One of the reasons for this decision is explained in the following paragraph.

It is difficult to establish the exact number of industrial awards and registered industrial agreements in force at the end of any period, because awards and determinations made by both State and Commonwealth tribunals generally continue in force, after the term of operation mentioned therein has expired, until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent order or award. Section 48 (2) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act provides that, after the expiration of the period specified, the award shall, unless the Court otherwise orders, continue in force until a new award has been made; provided that, where in pursuance of this sub-section an award has continued in force after the expiration of the period specified in the award, any award made by the Court for the settlement of a new industrial dispute between the parties may, if the Court so orders, be made retrospective to a date not earlier than the date upon which the Court first had cognizance of that dispute. In the Industrial Code of South Australia, Clause 47 (2), and in legislation for other States, similar provisions are in force. All industrial agreements continue in force after the expiration of the term mentioned until rescinded or superseded by a subsequent agreement or order. The Tasmanian Wages Boards Act 1934 repealed Part IV. of the Principal Act providing for industrial agreements and all such agreements ceased to operate from the commencement of the Act unless an agreement existed in a trade to which no determination of a Board was applicable, in which case the agreement remained in force until its expiry or until a determination was made.

5. **New Legislation and Special Reports.**—Information concerning the main provisions of various Industrial Acts in force throughout Australia was given in earlier Reports, and brief reviews are furnished each year of the more important aspects of new industrial legislation having special application to the terms of awards or determinations. The period January to December, 1954 is covered by this Report.

(i) *Commonwealth.*—The Stevedoring Industry Act 1949 was amended by an Act, assented to on 16th November, 1954, which contained the following main provisions.

The Section in the Principal Act dealing with the registration of water-side workers was amended so that applications for registration, to maintain the quota for each port, had to be endorsed and lodged with the Stevedoring Industry Board by an employer registered at the port concerned. Provision was made for the Waterside Workers Federation to lodge an objection to the proposed registration of any employee.

Part III of the Amending Act provided for a Committee of Inquiry to be set up to inquire into and report upon the functioning of the stevedoring industry, its efficiency, the arrangements for the settlement of disputes and maintenance of discipline, the costs and profits in the industry, the increases in freight rates since the commencement of the Stevedoring Industry Act 1947 and any other matter referred to it by the Minister.

(ii) *New South Wales.*—The Industrial Arbitration Act was amended to allow the Government to fill the office of a member of the Industrial Commission about to retire and who has been granted leave of absence pending his retirement.

(iii) *Victoria.*—The Labour and Industry Act 1953, assented to on 23rd December, 1953 and proclaimed to operate from 1st July, 1954, replaced the Factories and Shops Acts 1928-1953. This Act was largely a consolidation of the Factories and Shops Acts with certain new provisions and amendments. Two important new provisions authorized the establishment of a Labour and Industry Advisory Board and Boards of Reference. The Labour and Industry Advisory Board, set up to advise the Minister on any matter referred to it, shall comprise seven members, three representatives each of employers and employees with an independent chairman, the Secretary to the Department. A Board of Reference may be set up by any Wages Board, with power to determine disputes of facts concerning any provision of any determination of that Wages Board. The Chairman of the Board of Reference would be the Chairman of the Wages Board, with an equal number of representatives (up to two) of employers and employees. Other new or amended provisions of this Act relate to procedure for registration and inspection of factories, etc., the compulsory provision of time records, safety guards for machinery, reporting of accidents and other minor matters.

(iv) *Queensland.*—The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts were not amended during 1954.

(v) *South Australia.*—The Industrial Code was not amended during 1954.

(vi) *Western Australia.*—No amendments were made in 1954 to either the Industrial Arbitration or Mining Acts.

(vii) *Tasmania*.—The Wages Boards Act was not amended during 1954.

(viii) *Australian Capital Territory*.—There was no special industrial legislation affecting only the Australian Capital Territory passed in 1954.

§ 2. Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour.

1. **General.**—The collection of data for nominal rates of wage payable in different callings and in occupations in various industries carried on in each State was first undertaken by this Bureau in the early part of the year 1913. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable particulars of the numbers of apprentices, improvers and other juvenile workers to whom progressive rates of wage fixed according to increasing age or experience were payable from year to year, the inquiry was confined to the rates of wage payable to adult workers only, and was further limited generally to those industries in operation within the metropolitan area of each State. In order to make the inquiry comprehensive, however, certain industries were included which were not carried on in the capital cities, e.g., mining, shipping, agriculture and the pastoral industry. The particulars acquired were obtained primarily from awards, determinations and industrial agreements under Commonwealth and State Acts, and related to the minimum wage prescribed. In those cases where no award, determination or agreement was in force, the ruling union or predominant rate of wage was ascertained from employers and secretaries of trade unions. For convenience of comparison weekly rates of wage were adopted. In many instances, however, the wages were based on daily or hourly rates, since in many industries and occupations in which employment is casual or intermittent, wages are so fixed; hence the average weekly earnings in such occupations may fall short of the computed weekly rates. The information thus obtained referred to the weekly rate of wage in upwards of 400 specific occupations. Rates of wage were of course not available for each of these occupations in every State but the aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 1,569 male occupations or callings. These particulars furnished the necessary data for the computation of average rates of wage in various industrial groups* and in each State and Australia as a whole. The average rate of wage for each industrial group in each State was computed by taking the arithmetical average† of the rates of wage payable for all classified occupations within that group. A more detailed system of weighting could not be applied owing to the difficulty in the past of obtaining satisfactory data as to the number of persons engaged in each of the occupations for which rates of wage had been obtained. Though a considerable amount of information as to the number of persons engaged in different industries and occupations was available from subsequent Census results, it was found impracticable to bring the classification of these results into line with the detailed classification of occupations in the various industries as set out in the awards and determinations. For final results for each State and for each industrial group throughout the States, however, a careful system of weighting according to industrial groups was adopted. For example, in computing the result for any State in any period, the computed average wage rate in each industrial group was multiplied by a number (weight) representing the relative number of all male workers engaged in that group of

* The adopted classification of industries is shown in the Preface.

† The sum of the weekly rates of wage divided by the number of occupations included.

industries in the particular State. The sum of the products thus obtained, divided by the sum of the weights, represented the average wage rate for that State for the particular period. The weights used for each industrial group in the computations of the average wage for male and female occupations were published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 20, 1929.

The results thus ascertained for the year 1913 were published in Labour Report No. 2, pp. 28-43. In the early part of the year 1914, the scope of the inquiry was considerably extended, and particulars included of the weekly rates of wage in respect of 930 specific occupations. The aggregate collection for the six States amounted to 4,256 adult occupations (3,948 male and 308 female). The results obtained thereby to 30th April, 1914, were published in Labour Report No. 5, pp. 44-50. These results were further analysed, and the average number of working hours which constituted a full week's work in each occupation was ascertained and weighted in a manner similar to that for the rates of wage. This course was adopted in order to overcome the difficulty of making comparisons between States of the rates of wage in any specified occupation, since, in many instances, a different number of working hours constituted a full week's work in different States. By dividing the weighted average number of working hours into the weighted average weekly rate of wage, a more satisfactory standard of comparison was ascertained. Results obtained from these computations were given for each industrial group for each State.

Since 30th April, 1914, the number of occupations included in comparative computations has been slightly reduced. When technical change or some other factor has led to the disappearance of the original occupation from an award, agreement or determination, the usual practice has been to substitute a similar occupation with a comparable rate of wage. In some cases, however, such a substitution could not be made and the slight drop in the total number of occupations included has resulted. The particulars of wages given in the Appendix (Sections III. and IV.) to this Report include all the more important occupations. These have been taken from awards or determinations made by industrial tribunals, or from agreements registered under Commonwealth or State Acts.

To supplement the results thus obtained, investigations were made regarding rates of wage in earlier years with a view to showing their general trend in each State and in the several industrial groups. The total number of occupations for which particulars were available back to 1891 was 652.

The particulars given in this chapter show variations in nominal wage rates from year to year in each State and in various industrial groups. Index numbers are also given showing variations in effective wage rates in each State. The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

A comparison of wage rates and hours of labour for certain occupations in Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand will be found in Section V. of the Appendix.

2. Adult Male Weekly Wage Rates—States, 1891 to 1954.—The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult male workers at the dates specified for a full week's work in each State and Australia. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000):—

Weekly Wage Rates(a): Adult Males, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
No. of Occupations included. (b)	870	894	615	562	477	466	3,884

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1891	44 1	40 5	46 6	41 7	52 4	38 6	43 5
" " 1901	43 11	40 9	46 2	42 0	53 11	36 10	43 5
" " 1911	51 5	50 6	51 1	51 11	59 0	41 0	51 3
" " 1914	56 2	54 7	53 5	54 5	62 10	52 8	55 7
" " 1921	95 10	93 7	96 8	89 5	95 0	91 8	94 6
" " 1929	102 11	101 1	101 2	97 2	100 7	94 8	101 2
" " 1931	93 5	82 2	89 0	75 0	84 1	79 9	86 10
" " 1939	96 7	93 6	97 5	88 11	100 6	89 5	95 3
" " 1941	105 4	104 5	101 9	100 3	110 2	99 3	104 3
" " 1949	171 11	168 11	167 10	165 3	171 6	165 4	169 8
" " 1950	209 6	204 5	199 10	200 6	208 3	199 7	205 6
" " 1951	255 0	245 5	240 10	241 8	251 4	247 3	248 7
" " 1952	284 8	274 5	267 9	274 6	284 7	276 2	278 2
" " 1953	296 8	282 6	273 10	278 9	292 5	296 11	287 7
31st March, 1954	296 8	283 2	276 5	278 9	292 5	296 11	288 2
30th June, 1954	296 9	282 7	277 10	278 9	292 5	296 11	288 3
30th September, 1954	296 9	282 2	278 3	278 9	292 5	296 11	288 2
31st December, 1954	298 4	284 3	278 7	282 2	293 3	299 2	290 0

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base: Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1891	861	789	908	811	1,022	751	848
" " 1901	858	796	901	819	1,052	719	848
" " 1911	1,003	985	997	1,013	1,152	799	1,000
" " 1914	1,066	1,065	1,042	1,062	1,226	1,028	1,085
" " 1921	1,869	1,826	1,886	1,715	1,853	1,788	1,844
" " 1929	2,007	1,972	1,975	1,896	1,963	1,848	1,974
" " 1931	1,823	1,603	1,737	1,463	1,641	1,556	1,694
" " 1939	1,885	1,825	1,900	1,735	1,962	1,745	1,858
" " 1941	2,056	2,037	1,985	1,957	2,149	1,937	2,034
" " 1949	3,355	3,296	3,275	3,225	3,346	3,227	3,310
" " 1950	4,088	3,989	3,900	3,911	4,064	3,895	4,009
" " 1951	4,975	4,789	4,699	4,715	4,904	4,825	4,850
" " 1952	5,555	5,354	5,224	5,356	5,553	5,388	5,428
" " 1953	5,788	5,513	5,342	5,439	5,705	5,794	5,611
31st March, 1954	5,788	5,524	5,391	5,439	5,705	5,794	5,624
30th June, 1954	5,790	5,514	5,421	5,439	5,705	5,794	5,624
30th September, 1954	5,790	5,505	5,430	5,439	5,705	5,794	5,623
31st December, 1954	5,820	5,547	5,435	5,506	5,722	5,837	5,658

(a) The figures of nominal wages and hours of labour are in course of revision to meet changes in industrial structure. The amounts shown should not be regarded as actual current averages but as an index of changes expressed in money and hour terms.

(b) As at 31st December, 1954.

3. Adult Male Weekly Wage Rates—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1891 to 1954.—The following table shows for Australia (a) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups for the year 1911 as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Wage Rates(a) : Adult Males, Industrial Groups.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates in Each Industrial Group.

Date.	INDUSTRIAL GROUP.														
	I. Wood, Furni- ture, etc.	II. Engineer- ing, etc.	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	V. Books, Printing, etc.	VI. Other Manu- facturing.	VII. Building.	VIII. Mining, etc.	IX. Railways, etc.	X. Other Transport	XI. Shipping, etc.(b)	XII. Pastoral, etc.(b)	XIII. Domestic, etc.(c)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Industrial Groups.
RATES OF WAGE.															
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1891 ..	52 5	47 8	38 2	36 8	53 5	46 4	50 6	58 1	50 10	39 6	38 2	34 10	32 10	39 7	43 5
" " 1901 ..	52 3	48 5	44 7	36 3	51 0	46 5	53 10	54 8	52 4	40 9	38 5	32 1	30 8	38 10	43 5
" " 1911 ..	57 8	54 6	50 9	50 3	58 11	51 11	62 1	61 2	57 0	46 7	44 7	43 0	45 5	47 7	51 3
" " 1914 ..	59 6	57 9	55 8	53 0	63 10	56 0	65 5	65 2	59 8	52 8	49 10	49 5	47 11	54 0	55 7
" " 1921 ..	98 2	98 2	93 10	93 3	104 7	95 0	102 5	105 4	97 5	90 2	101 8	89 0	84 2	91 1	94 6
" " 1929 ..	104 10	103 6	100 10	99 6	119 1	102 2	113 0	110 7	105 2	96 9	107 0	95 6	92 6	96 8	101 2
" " 1931 ..	85 7	86 3	88 6	83 11	102 0	85 4	98 9	102 5	86 7	83 11	81 10	80 3	85 3	83 11	86 10
" " 1939 ..	100 1	99 3	96 9	93 2	114 3	95 8	106 5	109 1	96 6	92 10	98 6	84 0	89 11	92 10	95 3
" " 1941 ..	108 5	110 0	106 1	105 7	119 6	107 0	116 11	115 1	108 8	101 11	106 9	93 6	97 10	101 2	104 3
" " 1949 ..	166 7	166 1	166 2	164 2	194 7	165 1	183 0	175 7	167 3	160 0	192 4	174 7	154 0	162 0	169 8
" " 1950 ..	190 8	198 2	199 11	202 10	228 9	199 0	215 11	211 0	199 2	192 7	230 2	222 2	186 8	192 9	205 6
" " 1951 ..	238 8	237 1	239 3	242 10	274 5	238 10	259 0	249 2	238 0	233 2	271 11	279 1	224 8	232 0	248 7
" " 1952 ..	270 2	267 10	271 5	273 6	305 5	270 2	293 11	281 8	269 4	263 11	303 1	300 11	255 8	262 10	278 2
" " 1953 ..	276 11	274 2	279 5	278 10	313 11	276 10	301 3	288 2	278 3	270 3	308 9	319 8	262 5	270 1	287 7
31st March, 1954 ..	277 5	274 6	280 0	278 10	315 7	277 2	301 9	288 6	279 0	270 8	308 9	320 3	263 3	270 8	288 2
30th June, 1954 ..	277 5	275 9	280 1	278 10	315 5	277 2	303 3	288 5	279 2	270 11	308 9	320 1	263 2	270 6	288 3
30th September, 1954 ..	278 8	275 8	280 0	278 10	315 2	277 2	303 2	288 3	278 11	270 10	308 9	319 11	263 3	270 4	288 2
31st December, 1954 ..	281 11	284 1	280 9	278 10	324 11	279 7	307 6	288 0	280 9	273 3	308 9	319 7	263 0	270 5	290 0
INDEX NUMBERS.															
(Base : Weighted Average Wage for Australia (51s. 3d.), 1911 = 1,000.)															
31st December, 1891 ..	1,023	931	745	716	1,043	904	986	1,134	992	772	745	680	641	773	848
" " 1901 ..	1,019	945	871	708	996	907	1,050	1,067	1,021	795	751	627	598	759	848
" " 1911 ..	1,125	1,064	901	981	1,149	1,013	1,213	1,194	1,113	910	871	839	887	909	1,000
" " 1914 ..	1,161	1,127	1,085	1,034	1,246	1,093	1,276	1,272	1,165	1,026	972	965	933	1,051	1,085
" " 1921 ..	1,916	1,915	1,832	1,819	2,040	1,854	1,999	2,056	1,901	1,760	1,984	1,736	1,642	1,778	1,844
" " 1929 ..	2,046	2,010	1,967	1,942	2,323	1,904	2,305	2,157	2,052	1,888	2,087	1,803	1,804	1,886	1,974
" " 1931 ..	1,669	1,683	1,727	1,638	1,991	1,664	1,926	1,999	1,690	1,638	1,596	1,566	1,663	1,637	1,694
" " 1939 ..	1,933	1,936	1,888	1,817	2,229	1,867	2,076	2,142	1,834	1,812	1,922	1,639	1,755	1,811	1,858
" " 1941 ..	2,116	2,147	2,071	2,060	2,332	2,088	2,282	2,245	2,121	1,989	2,082	1,825	1,908	1,974	2,034
" " 1949 ..	3,250	3,241	3,243	3,204	3,796	3,221	3,570	3,426	3,263	3,123	3,753	3,407	3,020	3,161	3,310
" " 1950 ..	3,806	3,867	3,901	3,957	4,463	3,883	4,212	4,118	3,887	3,757	4,491	4,335	3,643	3,761	4,009
" " 1951 ..	4,656	4,626	4,668	4,738	5,355	4,661	5,054	4,861	4,643	4,550	5,306	5,445	4,384	4,527	4,850
" " 1952 ..	5,272	5,226	5,296	5,337	5,959	5,272	5,735	5,495	5,150	5,914	5,871	4,989	5,128	5,428	5,611
" " 1953 ..	5,403	5,349	5,452	5,441	6,124	5,401	5,878	5,622	5,429	5,274	6,025	6,237	5,121	5,269	5,611
31st March, 1954 ..	5,412	5,356	5,464	5,441	6,157	5,407	5,888	5,629	5,443	5,282	6,025	6,249	5,137	5,281	5,622
30th June, 1954 ..	5,413	5,380	5,465	5,441	6,154	5,407	5,916	5,627	5,447	5,286	6,025	6,246	5,134	5,278	5,624
30th September, 1954 ..	5,437	5,378	5,464	5,441	6,150	5,408	5,915	5,624	5,442	5,285	6,025	6,242	5,136	5,274	5,623
31st December, 1954 ..	5,501	5,542	5,478	5,441	6,340	5,455	6,000	5,620	5,654	5,332	6,025	6,236	5,132	5,276	5,658

(a) See note (a) to table on page 39.

(b) Includes the value of keep, where supplied.

(c) Includes the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

4. **Adult Female Weekly Wage Rates—States, 1914 to 1954.**—The index numbers given in the preceding paragraphs for male adult workers were computed with the weighted average wage in 1911 as base (= 1,000). In the case of females, however, it has not been possible to secure information for years prior to 1914, and the index numbers are therefore computed with the weighted average rate of wage payable to adult female workers in Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

The following table shows the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage payable to adult female workers for a full week's work in each State and Australia at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Wage Rates(a) : Adult Females, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia.
No. of Occupations Included.(b)	84	87	38	47	24	32	312

RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1914	26 10	27 9	27 1	24 1	37 4	25 10	27 5
" " 1921	49 0	47 10	50 3	45 2	56 4	47 6	48 8
" " 1929	53 11	54 1	54 10	51 4	58 10	53 9	54 1
" " 1931	49 8	45 10	47 11	43 1	51 7	45 8	47 5
" " 1939	53 3	51 9	55 2	49 7	55 8	50 8	52 8
" " 1941	57 11	58 4	59 6	55 5	60 4	56 7	58 2
" " 1949	108 1	112 4	108 5	101 0	105 5	106 4	109 1
" " 1950	139 11	142 11	135 11	142 1	132 3	137 2	140 5
" " 1951	171 1	172 10	161 7	171 4	163 2	168 7	170 4
" " 1952	193 11	196 2	184 4	195 8	186 0	191 2	193 5
31st March, 1953	194 7	196 6	184 3	194 1	186 0	191 7	193 8
30th June, 1953	196 9	198 11	186 3	196 7	188 5	194 5	196 0
30th September, 1953	198 5	200 4	187 6	199 6	190 5	196 4	197 7
31st December, 1953	198 5	200 10	188 7	199 6	190 5	196 4	197 11
31st March, 1954	198 5	201 2	189 8	199 6	190 5	196 4	198 2
30th June, 1954	198 6	200 10	189 8	199 6	190 5	196 4	198 1
30th September, 1954	198 8	200 9	189 8	199 6	190 5	196 7	198 1
31st December, 1954	198 9	200 2	190 0	199 5	190 5	196 7	197 11

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average Wage for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
31st December, 1914	987	1,022	996	885	1,373	950	1,008
" " 1921	1,803	1,761	1,849	1,661	2,074	1,749	1,790
" " 1929	1,983	1,990	2,020	1,888	2,165	1,978	1,990
" " 1931	1,828	1,688	1,765	1,584	1,900	1,681	1,746
" " 1939	1,960	1,906	2,031	1,826	2,049	1,866	1,938
" " 1941	2,133	2,148	2,191	2,038	2,220	2,082	2,141
" " 1949	3,979	4,134	3,990	3,716	3,880	3,915	4,015
" " 1950	5,150	5,259	5,003	5,229	4,866	5,050	5,169
" " 1951	6,296	6,362	5,948	6,305	6,007	6,204	6,268
" " 1952	7,138	7,220	6,784	7,202	6,846	7,037	7,120
31st March, 1953	7,161	7,232	6,782	7,144	6,846	7,050	7,128
30th June, 1953	7,240	7,322	6,855	7,236	6,934	7,158	7,212
30th September, 1953	7,302	7,372	6,900	7,342	7,007	7,226	7,272
31st December, 1953	7,302	7,392	6,940	7,342	7,007	7,226	7,285
31st March, 1954	7,302	7,404	6,979	7,342	7,007	7,226	7,294
30th June, 1954	7,305	7,392	6,979	7,342	7,007	7,226	7,290
30th September, 1954	7,311	7,388	6,979	7,342	7,007	7,236	7,291
31st December, 1954	7,314	7,367	6,994	7,339	7,007	7,236	7,285

(a) See note (a) to table on page 39.

(b) As at 31st December, 1954.

5. Adult Female Weekly Wage Rates—Australia—Industrial Groups, 1914 to 1954.—The following table shows for Australia (a) the weighted average weekly rate of wage in each of the industrial groups in which the number of females is significant, and (b) the weighted average wage for all groups combined, at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each industrial group with the average for all groups at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Wage Rates(a) : Adult Females, Industrial Groups.

Weighted Average Nominal Weekly Rates payable for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) and Index Numbers of Wage Rates in Industrial Groups.

Date.	INDUSTRIAL GROUP.					
	III. Food, Drink, etc.	IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc.	I., II., V., and VI. All Other Manu- facturing.	XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc.(b)	XIV. Miscel- laneous.	All Groups.
RATES OF WAGE.						
31st December, 1914	s. d. 23 5	s. d. 24 11	s. d. 27 0	s. d. 30 2	s. d. 31 4	s. d. 27 5
" " 1921	43 9	43 7	48 0	48 6	50 0	48 8
" " 1929	49 4	54 4	53 11	54 9	53 10	54 1
" " 1931	44 4	45 5	40 11	50 9	49 10	47 5
" " 1939	48 9	50 9	51 11	54 5	56 8	52 8
" " 1941	53 5	57 4	58 0	58 9	60 7	58 2
" " 1949	105 5	109 5	111 11	97 5	119 1	109 1
" " 1950	135 9	139 2	147 1	132 1	149 9	140 5
" " 1951	164 2	169 6	177 1	160 10	179 10	170 4
" " 1952	186 8	192 5	200 9	183 6	203 10	193 5
31st March, 1953	187 2	192 6	201 2	183 10	204 1	193 8
30th June, 1953	189 5	194 10	203 7	186 0	206 4	196 0
30th September, 1953	190 8	196 6	201 0	188 0	209 3	197 7
31st December, 1953	191 3	196 6	201 3	188 7	210 2	197 11
31st March, 1954	190 8	196 6	201 5	189 1	210 10	198 2
30th June, 1954	191 10	196 6	201 3	189 0	210 5	198 1
30th September, 1954	191 8	196 6	201 2	189 5	210 3	198 1
31st December, 1954	191 2	196 6	201 8	188 11	209 11	197 11

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average Wage for Australia (27s. 2d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1914	862	917	994	1,110	1,153	1,008
" " 1921	1,609	1,789	1,766	1,787	1,841	1,790
" " 1929	1,815	1,999	1,984	2,015	1,982	1,990
" " 1931	1,630	1,672	1,728	1,869	1,834	1,746
" " 1939	1,795	1,869	1,910	2,003	2,085	1,938
" " 1941	1,967	2,110	2,134	2,103	2,229	2,141
" " 1949	3,879	4,026	4,118	3,586	4,384	4,015
" " 1950	4,996	5,121	5,412	4,861	5,512	5,169
" " 1951	6,043	6,238	6,517	5,919	6,618	6,268
" " 1952	6,869	7,081	7,389	6,755	7,501	7,120
31st March, 1953	6,888	7,085	7,405	6,766	7,512	7,128
30th June, 1953	6,972	7,171	7,494	6,847	7,596	7,212
30th September, 1953	7,016	7,232	7,398	6,919	7,703	7,272
31st December, 1953	7,039	7,232	7,407	6,941	7,735	7,285
31st March, 1954	7,056	7,232	7,413	6,959	7,759	7,294
30th June, 1954	7,059	7,232	7,407	6,955	7,745	7,290
30th September, 1954	7,053	7,232	7,405	6,971	7,737	7,291
31st December, 1954	7,036	7,232	7,422	6,951	7,725	7,285

(a) See note (a) to table on page 39.

(b) Includes the value of board and lodging, where supplied.

6. Weekly and Hourly Rates of Wage, and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1954.—(i) *General.*—The rates of wage referred to in the preceding paragraphs are the minima payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime). The number of hours constituting a full week's work

differs, however, in some instances, between various trades and occupations in each State, and between the same trades and occupations in the several States. To secure what may be for some purposes a better comparison, the results in the preceding paragraphs are reduced to a common basis, namely, the rate of wage per hour in industrial groups in each State and in all States. In the Appendix (Sections III. and IV.) details are given of the number of hours worked per week in the various industries. The following tables include the average number of hours per week in industrial groups for each State.

The tables show (a) the average weekly wage rate; (b) the average number of working hours per week for a full week's work; and (c) the average hourly wage rate for adult male and female workers in each State and industrial group except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Some of the occupations included in the latter two groups are of a casual or seasonal nature, and the hours of labour are not generally regulated either by awards or determinations of industrial tribunals or in other ways. Hence the necessary definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage are not available.

(ii) *Adult Males*.—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1954.

**Weekly and Hourly Wage Rates and Weekly Hours of Labour(a) : Adult Males,
Industrial Groups.**

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1954.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia. (b)
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	285/10	281/2	272/3	276/0	285/5	286/6	281/11
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/1½	7/0½	6/9½	6/10½	7/1½	7/2	7/0½
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	287/7	280/8	276/7	278/9	297/9	297/2	284/1
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/2½	7/0½	6/11	6/11½	7/5½	7/5½	7/1½
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	283/6	285/11	265/3	281/4	283/0	293/4	280/9
	Working Hours	40.00	39.93	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/1	7/2	6/7½	7/0½	7/1	7/4	7/0½
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	276/6	278/3	284/4	284/4	287/7	275/7	278/10
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	6/11	6/11½	7/1½	7/1½	7/2½	6/10½	6/11½
V. Books, Printing, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	329/5	326/4	307/10	318/9	324/3	335/10	324/11
	Working Hours	40.00	39.51	40.00	40.00	37.69	40.00	39.72
	Hourly Wage	8/2½	8/2	7/8½	7/11½	8/7½	8/4½	8/2½
VI. Other Manufacturing ..	Weekly Wage	185/10	276/9	260/9	278/2	281/10	287/7	279/7
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/1½	6/11	6/6½	6/11½	7/0½	7/½	6/11½
VII. Building ..	Weekly Wage	313/0	307/7	299/8	298/0	302/7	304/7	307/6
	Working Hours	39.94	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	39.98
	Hourly Wage	7/10	7/8½	7/6	7/5½	7/6½	7/7½	7/8½
VIII. Mining(c) ..	Weekly Wage	290/2	281/10	273/2	272/1	d307/3	286/11	288/0
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	38.15	40.00	39.69
	Hourly Wage	7/3	7/0½	6/10	6/9½	8/0½	7/2	7/3
IX. Rail and Tram Services ..	Weekly Wage	301/5	289/2	269/3	283/3	280/0	299/10	289/9
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/0½	7/2½	6/8½	7/1	7/0	7/6	7/3
X. Other Transport ..	Weekly Wage	280/4	270/10	255/1	266/5	279/8	283/6	273/3
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	7/0	6/9½	6/4½	6/8	7/0	7/1	6/10

For footnotes see following page.

**Weekly and Hourly Wage Rates and Weekly Hours of Labour(a) : Adult Males,
Industrial Groups—continued.**

*Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st
December, 1954—continued.*

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (b)
XI. Shipping, etc.(e) (f) ..	Weekly Wage	307/2	311/9	307/8	309/4	309/8	310/9	308/9
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.(g)	Weekly Wage	339/11	301/5	308/1	303/7	315/4	333/2	319/7
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	271/4	262/5	245/8	250/3	264/0	262/5	263/0
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	6/9½	6/6½	6/1½	6/3	6/7½	6/6½	6/7
XIV. Miscellaneous ..	Weekly Wage	278/2	268/7	256/11	260/8	273/0	271/2	270/5
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	6/11½	6/8½	6/5	6/6½	6/10	6/9½	6/9
All Groups(b) ..	Weekly Wage	298/4	284/3	278/7	282/2	293/3	299/2	290/0
All Groups except XI. and XII.(b) ..	Weekly Wage	287/3	279/9	267/10	274/0	287/10	284/5	281/4
	Working Hours	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
	Hourly Wage	7/2½	7/0	6/8½	6/10½	7/3½	7/1½	7/0½

(a) See note (a) to table on page 30. (b) Weighted average. (c) Average rates of wage and hours prevailing at the principal mining centres in each State. (d) Excludes district allowances in the gold-mining industry. (e) Average rates of wage are for occupations other than Masters, Officers and Engineers in the Merchant Marine Service, and include value of keep, where supplied. (f) Definite particulars for the computation of average working hours and hourly rates of wage are not available. (g) Includes the value of keep, where supplied.

(iii) *Adult Females.*—The following table shows the average nominal weekly and hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers and the weekly hours of labour at 31st December, 1954.

**Weekly and Hourly Wage Rates and Weekly Hours of Labour(a) : Adult Females,
Industrial Groups.**

Average Rates of Wage Payable and Weekly Hours of Labour, 31st December, 1954.

Industrial Group.	Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (b)
III. Food, Drink, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	193/6	192/4	171/9	199/3	171/10	198/3	191/2
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	4/10	4/9½	4/3½	4/11½	4/3½	4/11½	4/9½
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	194/9	195/11	199/8	199/8	201/0	198/3	196/6
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	4/10½	4/10½	5/0	5/0	5/0½	4/11½	4/11
I., II., V., & VI. All Other Manufacturing	Weekly Wage	207/2	198/5	188/11	208/0	..	201/6	201/8
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	5/2½	4/11½	4/8½	5/2½	..	5/0½	5/0½
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	Weekly Wage	191/5	197/6	169/9	196/10	180/5	191/5	188/11
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	4/9½	4/11½	4/3	4/11	4/6½	4/9½	4/8½
XIV. Shop Assistants, Clerks, etc.	Weekly Wage	210/3	217/5	297/0	198/0	..	..	209/11
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	..	..	40.00
	Hourly Wage	5/3	5/5½	4/11	4/11½	..	..	5/3
All Groups(b) ..	Weekly Wage	198/9	200/2	190/0	190/5	190/5	196/7	197/11
	Working Hours	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
	Hourly Wage	4/11½	5/0	4/9	4/11½	4/9	4/11	4/11½

(a) See note (a) to table on page 39.

(b) Weighted average.

7. **Adult Male Hourly Wage Rates—States, 1914 to 1954.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult male workers in each State at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

Hourly Wage Rates(a) : Adult Males, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates (to the nearest farthing) payable and Index Numbers of Hourly Rates.

Date.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
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RATES OF WAGE.

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
31st December, 1914	1 2	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 1	1 2
" " 1921	2 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 2	1 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 1	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1929	2 4	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 4	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3
" " 1931	2 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1939	2 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 4	2 0	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1941	2 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 5	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 3	2 5 $\frac{1}{4}$
" " 1949	4 3	4 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 1	4 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
" " 1950	5 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 11	5 0
" " 1951	6 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 9	6 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 11	6 0
" " 1952	6 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1953	7 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	7 3	7 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1954	7 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 0	6 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (13.96d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1914	1,010	990	985	993	1,173	936	1,009
" " 1921	1,817	1,741	1,865	1,637	1,796	1,675	1,779
" " 1929	2,011	1,895	2,001	1,808	1,923	1,751	1,940
" " 1931	1,873	1,527	1,749	1,383	1,617	1,480	1,676
" " 1939	1,963	1,834	1,979	1,692	2,001	1,717	1,903
" " 1941	2,138	2,071	2,092	1,956	2,240	1,938	2,098
" " 1949	3,654	3,607	3,463	3,484	3,691	3,515	3,599
" " 1950	4,393	4,318	4,047	4,142	4,430	4,230	4,301
" " 1951	5,318	5,142	4,756	4,948	5,319	5,079	5,153
" " 1952	5,985	5,785	5,404	5,697	6,066	5,782	5,833
" " 1953	6,128	5,959	5,599	5,787	6,239	6,042	5,986
" " 1954	6,175	6,015	5,756	5,888	6,262	6,112	6,054

(a) Weighted average hourly rates of wage for all industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for some of the occupations classified in Industrial Groups XI. and XII. See also note (a) to table on page 39.

8. **Adult Female Hourly Wage Rates—States, 1914 to 1954.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hourly rates of wage payable to adult female workers in each State at the dates specified. Index numbers are also given for each State with the average for Australia at 30th April, 1914 as base (= 1,000).

Hourly Wage Rates(a) : Adult Females, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hourly Rates (to the nearest farthing) payable and Index Numbers of Hourly Rates.

Date.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
RATES OF WAGE.							
31st December, 1914	s. d. 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	s. d. 0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	s. d. 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	s. d. 0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	s. d. 0 9	s. d. 0 6	s. d. 0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$
" " 1921	I I	I 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	O II $\frac{1}{2}$	I 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	I 0	I 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
" " 1929	I 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	I 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	I 3	I 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 2	I 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1931	I 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 0	I 1	O II $\frac{1}{4}$	I 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 0	I 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1939	I 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 2	I 3	I 1	I 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	I 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
" " 1941	I 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	I 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	I 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	I 3	I 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	I 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
" " 1949	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 8	2 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
" " 1950	3 6	3 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
" " 1951	4 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 1	4 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 3
" " 1952	4 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 10
" " 1953	4 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 9	4 11	4 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " 1954	4 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 0	4 9	4 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 9	4 11	4 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (6.64d.), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1914	983	1,035	983	881	1,364	920	1,009
" " 1921	1,965	1,878	1,989	1,770	2,215	1,794	1,923
" " 1929	2,218	2,154	2,252	2,015	2,333	2,108	2,182
" " 1931	2,044	1,822	1,943	1,688	2,045	1,791	1,910
" " 1939	2,193	2,107	2,267	1,952	2,217	2,032	2,145
" " 1941	2,387	2,387	2,444	2,274	2,477	2,324	2,387
" " 1949	4,884	5,074	4,898	4,562	4,762	4,806	4,929
" " 1950	6,322	6,455	6,142	6,419	5,973	6,199	6,345
" " 1951	7,729	7,810	7,301	7,741	7,373	7,616	7,694
" " 1952	8,762	8,863	8,328	8,840	8,404	8,639	8,739
" " 1953	8,964	9,074	8,520	9,012	8,601	8,870	8,943
" " 1954	8,979	9,044	8,586	9,009	8,601	8,883	8,943

(a) See note (a) to table on page 39.

9. **Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour—Adult Males, States.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult male workers in each State and Australia at 31st December, 1914 to 1954. Index numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime)(a) : Adult Males, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full Working Week and Index Numbers of Hours of Labour.

Date.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR.							
31st December, 1914	49.35	48.66	48.64	48.59	48.18	48.62	48.87
" " 1921	45.66	46.95	45.52	47.07	46.24	46.84	46.22
" " 1929	44.14	46.83	43.96	46.83	45.58	47.09	45.34
" " 1931	44.22	46.88	44.98	46.83	45.55	46.76	45.51
" " 1939	43.92	44.61	43.46	45.83	44.33	45.33	44.29
" " 1941	43.68	44.12	43.43	44.49	43.13	44.42	43.83
" " 1949	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
" " 1950	39.99	39.99	40.00	40.00	39.54	40.00	39.96
" " 1951	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
" " 1952	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
" " 1953	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95
" " 1954	39.99	39.98	40.00	40.00	39.51	40.00	39.95

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (48.93), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1914	1,009	994	994	993	985	994	999
" " 1921	933	960	930	962	945	957	945
" " 1929	902	957	898	957	932	962	927
" " 1931	904	958	919	957	931	956	930
" " 1939	898	912	888	937	906	926	905
" " 1941	893	902	888	909	881	908	896
" " 1949	817	817	817	817	808	817	817
" " 1950	817	817	817	817	808	817	817
" " 1951	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
" " 1952	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
" " 1953	817	817	817	817	807	817	816
" " 1954	817	817	817	817	807	817	816

(a) Weighted average working hours per week for all industrial groups except Groups XI. (Shipping, etc.) and XII. (Pastoral, Agricultural, etc.). Working hours have not been generally regulated by industrial tribunals for some of the occupations classified in Industrial Groups XI. and XII. See also note (a) to table on page 39.

10. **Nominal Weekly Hours of Labour—Adult Females, States.**—The following table shows the weighted average nominal hours of labour (excluding overtime) in a full working week for adult female workers in each State and Australia at 31st December, 1914 to 1954. Index numbers are given for each State with the weighted average hours of labour for Australia at 30th April, 1914, as base (= 1,000).

Weekly Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime)(a) : Adult Females, States.

Weighted Average Nominal Hours of Labour (excluding Overtime) worked during a Full Working Week and Index Numbers of Hours of Labour.

Date.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
WEEKLY HOURS OF LABOUR.							
31st December, 1914	49.34	48.54	49.82	49.33	49.44	50.76	49.11
" " 1921	45.06	46.04	45.66	46.10	45.97	47.86	45.69
" " 1929	43.93	45.40	44.01	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.79
" " 1931	43.93	45.44	44.56	46.03	45.57	46.07	44.88
" " 1939	43.88	44.42	44.01	45.96	45.38	45.10	44.36
" " 1941	43.88	44.19	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.03
" " 1949	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
" " 1950	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
" " 1951	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
" " 1952	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
" " 1953	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
" " 1954	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00

INDEX NUMBERS.

(Base : Weighted Average for Australia (49.08), 30th April, 1914 = 1,000.)

31st December, 1914	1,005	989	1,015	1,005	1,007	1,034	1,001
" " 1921	918	938	930	939	937	975	931
" " 1929	895	925	897	938	928	939	913
" " 1931	895	926	908	938	928	939	914
" " 1939	894	905	897	936	925	919	904
" " 1941	894	900	896	896	896	896	897
" " 1949	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
" " 1950	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
" " 1951	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
" " 1952	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
" " 1953	814	814	814	814	814	814	814
" " 1954	814	814	814	814	814	814	814

(a) See note (a) to table on page 39.

II. Nominal and Effective Wage Rates.—(i) *General.*—Index numbers of wage rates are said to be *nominal* when they represent changes in the wage rates themselves but are described as *effective* or *real* when they represent changes in equivalent purchasing power, that is, the purchasing power of the corresponding wages in terms of some definite composite unit or regimen the cost of which can be ascertained at different times. The relation between *nominal* and *effective* or *real* wages was discussed at some length in Labour Report No. 6, and was also referred to in Labour Report No. 11.

Prior to 1936 it was the practice of the Bureau to compute effective wage index numbers by dividing the nominal wage index numbers by the corresponding retail price index numbers for food, groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series). While wage rates were generally varied on the basis of the "A" series index numbers there was a good deal to be said for this procedure. When the Commonwealth Court abandoned the "A" series, the merits of the "C" series of retail price index numbers for "deflating"

* For explanation of "A" series see page 4 and of "C" series see page 5.

nominal wage rates were strengthened. The "C" series covers food, groceries, rent of four and five-roomed houses, clothing and miscellaneous household requirements. As the computation of the "A" series index by this Bureau was discontinued after the June quarter, 1938, real wages are measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "C" series only. A table showing for each State and for Australia real wages to the end of 1937 measured in terms of their purchasing power over the "A" series appeared in earlier issues of the Labour Report (see No. 38, page 70).

(ii) *Nominal Weekly Wage Rate Index Numbers—Adult Males, States, 1911 to 1954.*—The following table shows for the period 1911 to 1954 the weighted average nominal weekly rates of wage in each State, the weighted average rate for Australia in 1911 being taken as the base (= 1,000). The index numbers for 1911 are based on rates current at the end of December, annual averages not being available. For 1914 and subsequent years, however, the index numbers have been computed from the average of the rates current at the end of each quarter.

Nominal Wage Rate(a) Index Numbers : Adult Males, States.

(Base : Weighted Average Weekly Wage(a) for Australia, 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1941.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
N.S. Wales ..	1,003	1,093	1,862	2,012	1,851	1,874	2,024	2,973	3,259	3,649	4,588	5,367	5,699	5,797
Victoria ..	985	1,062	1,803	1,964	1,683	1,868	1,984	2,909	3,200	3,584	4,458	5,158	5,451	5,523
Queensland ..	997	1,035	1,879	1,976	1,769	1,885	1,981	2,840	3,116	3,548	4,377	5,113	5,280	5,419
S. Australia ..	1,013	1,061	1,697	1,891	1,580	1,725	1,897	2,841	3,150	3,503	4,376	5,124	5,384	5,456
W. Australia ..	1,152	1,223	1,832	1,960	1,745	1,956	2,100	2,888	3,226	3,638	4,557	5,325	5,647	5,709
Tasmania ..	799	1,027	1,745	1,840	1,625	1,738	1,895	2,861	3,149	3,472	4,441	5,178	5,718	5,805
Australia ..	1,000	1,081	1,826	1,972	1,755	1,816	1,997	2,914	3,210	3,596	4,495	5,241	5,539	5,632

(a) For a full week's work (excluding overtime).

(iii) *Effective or Real Wage Rate Index Numbers—Adult Males, States, 1911 to 1954.*—In obtaining the effective wage rate index numbers in the following table the nominal wage rate index numbers shown above have been divided by the corresponding retail price index numbers for the capital city and multiplied by 1,000.

Since the "C" series index numbers were not compiled for periods prior to November, 1914, it has been assumed for the purpose of the following table that fluctuations between 1911 (the base of the table) and 1914 in the "C" series would have been similar to the fluctuations observed in the "A" series.

Effective or Real Wage Rate(a) Index Numbers for Adult Males : Measured in terms of purchasing power over the "C" series regimen.

(Base : Weighted Average Real Wage(a) for Australia in 1911 = 1,000.)

State.	1911.	1914.	1921.	1929.	1931.	1939.	1941.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
N.S. Wales	925	1,073	1,130	1,210	1,207	1,187	1,359	1,365	1,380	1,430	1,428	1,450	1,467
Victoria	954	1,084	1,164	1,200	1,180	1,187	1,355	1,363	1,381	1,429	1,432	1,438	1,455
Queensland	1,022	1,227	1,290	1,336	1,306	1,240	1,379	1,407	1,453	1,408	1,494	1,490	1,506
S. Australia	914	1,034	1,099	1,137	1,147	1,158	1,311	1,362	1,388	1,439	1,430	1,445	1,444
W. Australia	1,043	1,096	1,152	1,189	1,308	1,279	1,377	1,379	1,426	1,477	1,479	1,483	1,490
Tasmania	902	984	1,108	1,120	1,153	1,142	1,334	1,338	1,371	1,438	1,432	1,436	1,454
Australia ..	1,000	948	1,087	1,151	1,210	1,211	1,191	1,357	1,367	1,380	1,430	1,438	1,450	1,459

(a) For a full week's work (excluding overtime).

In the above table the *effective* wage rate index numbers are computed to the one base, that of Australia for 1911. As the index numbers are

comparable in all respects, comparisons may be made as to the increase or decrease in the *effective* wage rate index number for any State over any period of years.

As retail prices (as shown by the "C" series index) rose by 1.0 per cent. in 1954, while nominal wages rose by 1.7 per cent., the *effective* wage rate index number rose from 1,450 to 1,459. Index numbers of nominal and effective wage rates as well as total and average weekly earnings for periods subsequent to 1952 appear in the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*.

(iv) *Effective or Real Wage Rate Index Numbers—Adult Males, Australia, 1901 to 1951.* In Labour Report No. 40, page 70, a table was included showing, at intervals from 1901 to 1929 and for each year from 1931 to 1951, similar index numbers for Australia as a whole under both the "A" and "C" series. For the reason referred to above, index numbers under the "A" series could not be published beyond 1937.

12. **Productive Activity.**—The tables on page 49 show the movement in *real* (or *effective*) wage rates, i.e., wages measured in terms of retail purchasing power. A parallel problem is the measure of productivity, i.e., the quantity of production (irrespective of prices) in relation to population or persons engaged in production. The tables formerly published in this section relating to gross value of Australian production and material production per head of population and per person engaged in material production (see Labour Report No. 35) have been discontinued, as it has been found that the methods previously used in constructing these indexes do not give reliable results under conditions experienced in recent years. At this stage, no alternative methods have been devised to measure satisfactorily the productivity of the working population.

13. **Average Weekly Wage Earnings.**—(i) *Average Weekly Total Wages Paid and Average Earnings, All Industries.*—The following figures are derived from employment and wages recorded on Pay-roll Tax returns (which prior to 1st September, 1954 covered approximately 80 per cent. of the total employment for Australia) and from estimates of the unrecorded balance. The figures relate to civilian wages and salaries only, pay and allowances of members of the armed forces being excluded.

Average Weekly Total Wages Paid and Average Earnings.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL WAGES PAID. (£'000.)							
1945-46	4,966	3,378	1,563	947	689	344	11,887
1946-47	5,838	3,958	1,770	1,150	827	409	13,952
1947-48	6,976	4,719	2,069	1,369	954	492	16,579
1948-49	8,133	5,540	2,503	1,644	1,120	580	19,520
1949-50	9,018	6,370	2,838	1,894	1,315	672	22,107
1950-51	11,385	7,916	3,501	2,389	1,639	817	27,647
1951-52	14,364	9,816	4,319	3,018	2,108	1,059	34,684
1952-53	15,090	10,490	4,750	3,311	2,344	1,178	37,163
1953-54	16,043	11,305	5,065	3,561	2,586	1,280	39,840
1954-55	17,357	12,221	5,398	3,839	2,731	1,365	42,911

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

Average Weekly Total Wages Paid and Average Earnings—continued.

Year.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS PER EMPLOYED MALE UNIT.(c) (£.)							
1945-46	6.57	6.59	5.95	5.89	6.04	5.67	6.37
1946-47	6.81	6.86	6.00	6.19	6.18	5.94	6.59
1947-48	7.73	7.80	6.58	7.02	6.87	6.72	7.44
1948-49	8.73	8.84	7.63	8.03	7.75	7.56	8.44
1949-50	9.50	9.78	8.34	8.83	8.65	8.49	9.26
1950-51	11.46	11.70	9.82	10.58	10.23	9.99	11.09
1951-52	14.24	14.20	11.93	13.13	12.80	12.59	13.65
1952-53	15.50	15.46	13.32	14.58	14.13	13.97	14.95
1953-54	16.15	16.27	14.05	15.30	15.04	14.92	15.69
1954-55	16.96	17.06	14.51	16.09	15.55	15.60	16.42

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Male units represent total male employment plus a proportion of female employment based on the approximate ratio of female to male earnings. The same ratio has been used in each State, and because the average ratio of female to male earnings may vary between States, precise comparisons between average earnings in different States cannot be made on the basis of the figures above.

(ii) *Average Weekly Wage Earnings Index Numbers.*—The following table shows, for "All Industries" and for "Manufacturing", the movement in average weekly wage earnings from 1945-46 to the June Quarter, 1955. The "All Industries" index is based on Pay-roll Tax returns and other data. The index for manufacturing industries for the years 1945-46 to 1953-54 is based on the average earnings of male wage and salary earners employed in factories as disclosed by annual factory returns. Figures subsequent to June, 1954 are preliminary estimates based on Pay-roll Tax returns.

The index numbers show for "All Industries" and "Manufacturing" the movement in average earnings over a period of time. However, they do not give, at any point of time, a comparison of actual earnings in the two groups. The base of each series is the year 1945-46 = 1,000 and both series have been seasonally adjusted.

Average Weekly Wage Earnings(a) Index Numbers : Australia.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED.

(Base of each Series : Year 1945-46 = 1,000.)

Year.	All Industries.(b)	Manufacturing.	Quarter.	All Industries.(b)	Manufacturing.
1945-46 ..	1,000	1,000	1953—March Qtr.	2,362	2,405
1946-47 ..	1,037	1,056	June ..	2,377	2,427
1947-48 ..	1,164	1,206	Sept. ..	2,445	2,479
1948-49 ..	1,322	1,365	Dec. ..	2,436	2,477
1949-50 ..	1,451	1,505	1954—March ..	2,491	2,552
			June ..	2,477	2,534
1950-51 ..	1,742	1,810	Sept. ..	2,522	2,609
1951-52 ..	2,145	2,213	Dec. ..	2,524	2,588
1952-53 ..	2,350	2,394	1955—March ..	2,589	2,705
1953-54 ..	2,462	2,511	June ..	2,652	2,730
1954-55 ..	2,572	2,653			

(a) Including salaries. (b) Average earnings per male unit employed. Male units represent total male employment plus a proportion of female employment based on the approximate ratio of female to male earnings.

§ 3. Standard Hours of Work.

1. **General.**—In the fixation of weekly wage rates most industrial tribunals prescribe the number of hours constituting a full week's work for the wage rates specified. The hours of work so prescribed form the basis of the compilation of the index numbers on pages 45-48 of this Labour Report. The first year shown is 1914, at which time the 48-hour week was recognized as a standard working week for most industries. The main features of the reduction of hours from 48 to 40 per week are summarized below. In considering such changes it must be remembered that even within individual States the authority to alter conditions of labour is divided between Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and the various legislatures, and that the State legislation does not apply to employees covered by awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

2. **The 44-hour Week.**—No permanent reduction to a 44-hour week was effected until 1925 although temporary reductions had been achieved earlier. In 1920 the New South Wales legislature granted a 44-hour week to most industries, but in the following year this provision was withdrawn. Also in 1920 the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration (Higgins J.), after inquiry, granted a 44-hour week to Timber Workers, and in the following year extended the same privilege to the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. In 1921, however, a reconstituted Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration unanimously rejected applications by five trade unions for the shorter standard week and reintroduced the 48-hour week in the case of the above-mentioned two unions then working 44 hours. During 1924 the Queensland Parliament passed legislation to operate from 1st July, 1925, granting the 44-hour standard week to employees whose conditions of work were regulated by awards and agreements of the Queensland State industrial authority. Similar legislative action in New South Wales led to the re-introduction of the 44-hour week in that State as from 4th January, 1926.

In 1927 after an exhaustive inquiry the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration granted a 44-hour week to the Amalgamated Engineering Union and intimated that this reduction in standard hours of work would be extended to industries operating under conditions similar to those in the engineering industry. Applications for the shorter hours by other unions were, however, treated individually, the nature of the industry, the problem of production, the financial status and the amount of foreign competition being fully investigated. The economic depression delayed the extension of the standard 44-hour week until the subsequent improvement in economic conditions made possible its general extension to employees under Commonwealth awards.

In States other than New South Wales and Queensland no legislation was passed to reduce the standard hours of work so that, for employees not covered by Commonwealth awards, the change had to be effected by decisions of the appropriate industrial tribunals. In these cases the date on which the reduction to 44 hours was implemented depended on the decision of the tribunals in particular industries, employees in some industries receiving the benefit of the reduced hours years ahead of those in others. In these States the change to the shorter week extended over the years from 1926 to 1941.

3. The 40-hour Week.—(i) *Standard Hours Inquiry, 1947.*—Soon after the cessation of hostilities in the 1939-45 War, applications were made to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the introduction of a 40-hour week, and the hearing by the Court commenced in October, 1945. Before the Court gave its decision the New South Wales Parliament passed legislation granting a 40-hour week, operative from 1st July, 1947, to industries and trades regulated by State awards and agreements, and in Queensland similar legislation which provided for the 40-hour week in that State to become operative from 1st January, 1948, was introduced in Parliament.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in its judgment on 8th September, 1947, granted the reduction to the 40-hour week from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in January, 1948. The Queensland Act was passed, and was proclaimed on 10th October, 1947. On 27th October, 1947, the South Australian Industrial Court after hearing applications by unions approved the incorporation of the 40-hour standard week in awards of that State. The Court of Arbitration of Western Australia on 6th November, 1947, granted the 40-hour week to employees under its jurisdiction from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in January, 1948.

In Victoria and Tasmania the Wages Boards met and also incorporated the shorter working week in their determinations, so that from the beginning of 1948 practically all employees in Australia whose conditions of labour were regulated by industrial authorities had the advantages of a standard working week of 40 hours or, in certain cases, less.

(ii) *Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952-53.*—In the 1952-53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry the employers sought an increase in the standard hours of work per week claiming that "one of the chief causes of the high costs and inflation has been the loss of production due to the introduction of the 40-hour week".* This claim was rejected by the Court as it considered that the employers had not proved that the existing economic situation called for a reduction of general standards in the matter of the ordinary working week. (See also page 59.)

§ 4. Basic Wages in Australia.

1. The Basic Wage.—The concept of a "basic" or "living" wage is common to rates of wage determined by industrial authorities in Australia. Initially the concept was interpreted as the "minimum" or "basic" wage necessary to maintain an average employee and his family in a reasonable state of comfort. However, it is now generally accepted "that the dominant factor in fixing the basic wage . . . is the economic or productivity factor and that the basic wage must be the highest that industry as a whole can pay."†

Under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration may, for the purpose of preventing or settling an industrial dispute extending beyond the limits of any State, make an order or award altering the basic wage (that is to say, that wage, or that part of a wage, which is just and reasonable, without regard to any circumstance pertaining to the work upon which, or the

* 77 C.A.R., p. 505.

† 44 C.A.R., p. 57.

industry in which, the person is employed) or the principles upon which it is computed. In practice, the Court holds general basic wage inquiries and its findings are then applied to industrial awards within its jurisdiction. In New South Wales and South Australia, in general, the State industrial authorities are required to adopt the relevant basic wage prescribed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. In Victoria and Tasmania, where the Wages Boards systems operate, no provision is included in the industrial Acts for the declaration of a basic wage, although, in fact, the Wages Boards have generally adopted basic wages based on those of the Commonwealth Court. In Queensland and Western Australia the determination of a basic wage is a function of the respective State Industrial or Arbitration Courts, and, subject to State legislation, these Courts have regard to the rates determined by the Commonwealth Court.

In addition to the basic wage, "secondary" wage payments, including margins for skill, loadings and other special considerations peculiar to the occupations or industry, are determined by these authorities. The basic wage and the "secondary" wage, where prescribed, make up the "minimum" wage for a particular occupation. The term minimum wage (as distinct from the basic wage) is used currently to express the lowest rate payable for a particular occupation or industry.

In § 1 of this chapter (pages 31-37) particulars are given of the current Commonwealth and State industrial Acts and the industrial authorities established by these Acts. The powers of these authorities include the determination and variation of basic wage rates.

2. The Commonwealth Basic Wage.—(i) *Early Judgments.*—The principle of a living or basic wage was propounded as far back as 1890 by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, but it was not until the year 1907 that a wage, as such, was declared by a Court in Australia. The declaration was made by way of an order in terms of Section 2 (d) of the Excise Tariff 1906 in the matter of an application by H. V. McKay that the remuneration of labour employed by him at the Sunshine Harvester Works, Victoria, was "fair and reasonable".

The Commonwealth Parliament had by the Act imposed certain excise duties on agricultural implements, but provided that the Act should not apply to goods manufactured in Australia "under conditions as to the remuneration of labour which are declared by the President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to be fair and reasonable". Mr. Justice Higgins, President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, discussed at length the meaning of "fair and reasonable", and defined the standard of a "fair and reasonable" minimum wage for unskilled labourers as that appropriate to "the normal needs of the average employee, regarded as a human being living in a civilized community".* The rate declared by the President in his judgment (known as the "Harvester Judgment") was 7s. per day or £2 2s. per week for Melbourne, the amount considered reasonable for "a family of about five".† According to a rough allocation by the Judge, the constituent parts of this amount were £1 5s. 5d. for food, 7s. for rent, and 9s. 7d. for all other expenditure.

The "Harvester" standard was adopted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for incorporation in its awards, and practically the same rates continued until the year 1913, when the Court took cognizance

* 2 C.A.R., p. 3. † The average number of dependent children per family was apparently regarded by the Court as about three, although statistical information available at the time did not permit of exact figures being ascertained. For particulars of available information which may have been considered by the Court, see Labour Report No. 41, footnote on page 73.

of the retail price index numbers, covering food and groceries and rent of all houses ("A" series) for the 30 more important towns of Australia, which had been published by the Commonwealth Statistician for the first time in the preceding year. The basic wage rates for towns were thereafter varied with regard to variations in the respective retail price index numbers. Court practice was to equate the retail price index number 875 for Melbourne for the year 1907 to the "Harvester" rate of 42s. per week (or the base of the index (1,000) to 48s. per week). At intervals thereafter as awards came before it for review, the Court usually revised the basic wage rate of the award in proportion to variations in the retail price index. In some country towns certain "loadings" were added by the Court to wage rates so derived to offset the effect of lower housing standards, and consequently lower rents, on the index numbers for these towns.

Over the period of its operation, the adequacy or otherwise of the "Harvester" standard was the subject of much discussion, the author of the judgment himself urging on several occasions the need for its review. During the period of rapidly rising prices towards the end of the 1914-18 War, strong criticism developed that this system did not adequately maintain the "Harvester" equivalents. A Royal Commission was appointed in 1919 to inquire as to what it would actually cost a man, wife and three children under fourteen years of age to live in a reasonable standard of comfort, and as to how the basic wage might be automatically adjusted to maintain purchasing power. The Commission's Reports were presented in November, 1920 and April, 1921.* An application by the unions to have the amounts arrived at by the inquiry declared as basic wage rates was not accepted by the Court because they were considerably in advance of existing rates and grave doubts were expressed by members of the Court as to the ability of industry to pay such rates.

The system of making automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage in direct ratio to variations in the retail price index ("A" series) was first introduced in 1921. The practice then adopted was to calculate the adjustments to the basic wage quarterly on the index number for the preceding quarter. Previously adjustments had been made sporadically in relation to retail price indexes for the previous calendar year or the year ended with the preceding quarter. The practice adopted by the Commonwealth Court in 1921 of making automatic quarterly adjustments continued until the Court's judgment of 12th September, 1953.†

In 1922 an amount known as the "Powers' 3s." was added by the Court‡ as a general "loading" to the weekly basic wage, for the purpose of maintaining, during a period of rising prices, the full equivalent of the "Harvester" standard. This loading continued until 1934.

(ii) *Basic Wage Inquiries, 1930-31, 1932, 1933.*—No change was made in the method of fixation and adjustment of the basic wage until the onset of depression which began to be felt severely during 1930. Applications were then made to the Court for some greater measure of reduction of wages than that which resulted from the automatic adjustments due to falling retail prices. The Court held a general inquiry, and, while declining to make any change in the existing method of calculating the basic wage, reduced all wage rates under its jurisdiction by 10 per cent. from 1st February, 1931.§ The Court refused in June, 1932, applications by employee organizations for the cancellation of the 10 per cent. reduction of wage rates.|| In May,

* See Labour Report No. 41, 1952, pp. 102 and 103 for a summary of the Commission's findings.
 † See pp. 59-62. ‡ 16 C.A.R., p. 32 § 30 C.A.R., p. 2. || 31 C.A.R., p. 305.

1933 the Court again refused to cancel the 10 per cent. reduction in wage rates, but decided that the existing method of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the "A" series retail price index number had resulted in some instances in a reduction of more than 10 per cent. In order to rectify this the Court adopted the "D" series of retail price index numbers for future quarterly adjustments of the basic wage.*

(iii) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1934.—The "Harvester" standard, adjusted to retail price variations, continued to be the theoretical basis of the basic wage of the Commonwealth Court until the Court's judgment, delivered on 17th April, 1934,† declared new basic wage rates to operate from 1st May, 1934. The new rates were declared on the basis of the relative "C" series retail price index numbers for the various cities for the December quarter, 1933, and ranged from 61s. for Brisbane to 67s. for Sydney and Hobart, the average wage for the six capital cities being 65s.

The 10 per cent. special reduction in wages referred to above ceased to operate upon the introduction of the new rates, and the automatic quarterly adjustment of the basic wage with variations in retail price index numbers was transferred from the "A" and the "D" series to the "C" series of index numbers.‡ The base of the index (1,000) was taken by the Court as equal to 81s. per week. The new basic wage for the six capital cities was the same as that previously paid under the "A" series, without the "Powers' 3s." and without the 10 per cent. reduction. For further particulars of the judgment in this inquiry see Labour Report No. 26, p. 76.

(iv) *Basic Wage Inquiry*, 1937.—In May and June, 1937, the Commonwealth Court heard an application by the combined unions for an increase in the basic wage. The unions asked that the equivalent of the base (1,000) of the "C" series index be increased from 81s. to 93s., which on index numbers then current would have represented an average increase of about 10s. per week. The chief features of the judgment, delivered on 23rd June,§ were :—

(a) Amounts were added to the basic wage not as an integral, and therefore adjustable, part of that wage, but as "loadings" additional to the rates payable under the 1934 judgment. The wage assessed on the 1934 basis was designated in the new judgment as the "needs" portion of the total resultant basic wage. These loadings, referred to as "Prosperity" loadings, were 6s. for Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane; 4s. for Adelaide, Perth and Hobart; and 5s. for the six capitals basic wage. "Prosperity" loadings for the basic wage for provincial towns in each State, for combinations of towns and combinations of capital cities, and for railway, maritime and pastoral workers were also provided for in the judgment.

(b) The minimum adjustment of the basic wage was fixed at 1s. per week instead of 2s.

(c) The basis of the adjustment of the "needs" portion of the wage in accordance with the variations shown by retail price index numbers was transferred from the "C" series to a special "Court" series based upon the "C" series. (See page 5.)

(d) Female and junior rates were left for adjustment by individual judges when dealing with specific awards.

* 32 C.A.R., p. 90. For further particulars see Labour Report No. 22, pp. 45-8 and Labour Report No. 23, pp. 45-6. † 33 C.A.R., p. 144. ‡ For explanation of the "A", "C" and "D" series see pages 4 and 5 of this Report. § 37 C.A.R., p. 583.

The main parts of the judgment were reprinted in Labour Report No. 28, pp. 77-87.

(v) *Judgment, December, 1939.*—The Commonwealth Court on 19th December, 1939 heard an application by trade unions for an alteration in the date of adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with the variations in the "Court" series of index numbers. On the same day, the Court directed that such adjustments be made operative from the beginning of the first pay-period to commence in February, May, August or November, one month earlier than the then current practice.*

(vi) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1940.*—On 5th August, 1940 the Full Court commenced the hearing of an application by the combined unions for an increase in the existing basic wage by raising the value of 1,000 (the base of the "C" series index upon which the "Court" series was based) from 81s. to 100s. per week, and the incorporation of the existing "Prosperity" loadings in the new rate mentioned. In its judgment of 7th February, 1941† the Court unanimously refused to grant any increase, and decided that the application should not be dismissed but stood over for further consideration after 30th June, 1941. The application was refused mainly owing to the uncertainty of the economic outlook under existing war conditions.

Concerning the concept of a basic wage providing for the needs of a specific family unit, Chief Judge Beeby in his judgment stated:—"The Court has always conceded that the 'needs' of an average family should be kept in mind in fixing a basic wage. But it has never, as the result of its own inquiry, specifically declared what is an average family, or what is the cost of a regimen of food, clothing, shelter and miscellaneous items necessary to maintain it in frugal comfort, or that a basic wage should give effect to any such finding. In the end economic possibilities have always been the determining factor . . . what should be sought is the independent ascertainment and prescription of the highest basic wage that can be sustained by the total of industry in all its primary, secondary and ancillary forms. . . . More than ever before wage fixation is controlled by the economic outlook."

The Chief Judge suggested that the basic wage should be graded according to family responsibilities and that, notwithstanding the increase in aggregate wages, a reapportionment of national income to those with more than one dependent child would be of advantage to the Commonwealth. The relief afforded to those who needed it would more than offset the inflationary tendency of provision for a comprehensive scheme of child endowment. If a scheme of this nature were established, as recently announced by the Commonwealth Government,‡ future fixations of the basic wage would be greatly simplified.

(vii) "*Interim*" *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1946.*—The Court, on 25th November, 1946, commenced the hearing of this case as the result of (a) an application made on 30th October, 1946 (during the course of the Standard Hours Case) by the Attorney-General for the Commonwealth for the restoration to the Full Court List of certain adjourned 1940 basic wage applications (see (vi) above); (b) a number of fresh cases which had come to the Court since 1941; and (c) an application by the Australian Council of Trade Unions on behalf of trade unions for an "interim" basic wage declaration.

* 41 C.A.R., p. 520.

† 44 C.A.R., p. 47.

‡ See page 94 for particulars.

Judgment was delivered on 13th December, 1946,* whereby an increase of 7s. was granted in the "needs" portion of the basic wage then current to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month of December, 1946, except in the case of casual and maritime workers for whom the increases operated from 1st December.

For the purpose of automatic quarterly adjustments a new "Court" series of index numbers was created by increasing the base index number (1923-27) from 81.0 to 87.0. The "Court" series index number calculated on this base for the September quarter, 1946 effected an increase in the basic wage for the weighted average of the six capital cities (as a whole) from 93s. to 100s. A similar increase of 7s. was recorded in the basic wage for each capital city except Hobart where the amount was 6s. All "loadings" on the basic wage were retained at their existing amounts unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

This new series was designated "Court Index (Second Series)" to distinguish it from the Court Index (First Series) which was introduced after the 1937 Basic Wage Inquiry. The new "Court" index numbers were obtained by multiplying the "C" series retail price index numbers (Base: 1923-27 = 1,000) by the factor 0.087, and taking the result to the first decimal place.

The wage rates for adult females and juveniles were to be increased proportionately to the increase granted to adult males, the amount of the increase being determined by the provisions in each award. For further particulars of the judgment see Labour Report No. 35, p. 85.

(viii) *Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949-50.*—This finalized the case begun in 1940 and continued in 1946 (see above). In 1946, during the hearing of the Standard Hours Inquiry and following the restoration to the Full Court List of applications for an increased basic wage, the Chief Judge ruled that the claim for an increase in the basic wage should be heard concurrently with the "40-hour week" claims then before the Court. The unions, however, objected to this course being followed, and, on appeal to the High Court, that Court in March, 1947, gave a decision which resulted in the Arbitration Court proceeding with the "Hours" Case to its conclusion.

The Basic Wage Inquiry, 1949-50, finally opened in February, 1949, and the general hearing of the unions' claims was commenced on 17th May, 1949. Evidence was completed on 22nd August, 1950, and the three Judges (Kelly C.J., Foster and Dunphy JJ.) delivered separate judgments on 12th October, 1950.† In those judgments, which were in the nature of general declarations, a majority of the Court (Foster and Dunphy JJ.) was of the opinion that the basic wage for adult males should be increased by £1 per week, and that for adult females should be 75 per cent. of the adult male rate. Kelly C.J., dissenting, considered that no increase in either the male or the female wage was justified.

On 24th October, 1950 and 23rd November, 1950 the Court made further declarations regarding the "Prosperity" loading of 1937 (see page 56), which was being paid at rates between 3s. and 6s. per week according to localities, etc., and the future basis of quarterly adjustments. The "Prosperity" loading was standardized at a uniform rate of 5s. per week for all localities and was declared to be an adjustable part of the basic wage. The Court also declared that the "War" loadings were not part of the basic wage.

* 57 C.A.R., p. 603.

† 68 C.A.R., p. 698.

With regard to other "loadings" the Court, on 17th November, 1950, proceeded to examine the individual awards in the claims before it, for the purpose of determining to what extent such "loadings" formed part of the basic wage. Any "loading" declared to be part of the basic wage ceased to be paid as a separate entity, but apart from the special case of the Australian Capital Territory there were very few "loadings" which fell within this category.

The new rates operated from the beginning of the first pay-period in December, 1950, in all cases being the "needs" rate (2nd Series) on the indexes of the September quarter, 1950 plus a flat-rate addition of £1, together with the standardized "Prosperity" loading of 5s.

The basic wage rate for the six capital cities (weighted average) arrived at by the Court after applying the foregoing declarations was £8 2s., comprising £6 17s. "needs" (2nd Series) plus 5s. uniform "Prosperity" loading plus the £1 addition. The declaration provided that the whole of this basic wage would be subject to automatic quarterly adjustments as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1951, on the basis of the index numbers for the December quarter, 1950. For this purpose the new rate of £8 2s. was equated to the "C" series retail price index number 1572 for the six capital cities (weighted average) for the September quarter, 1950. From this equation was derived a new "Court" Index (Third Series) with 103.0 equated to 1,000 in the "C" Series Index.

The basic wage rates operative in November, 1950, in comparison with those operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950, are shown below:—

Date of Operation.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
November, 1950 ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December, 1950 ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0

(ix) *Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry, 1952-53.*—On 5th August, 1952 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration began hearing claims by:—

1. The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other employers' organizations—

- (a) that the basic wage for adult males be reduced ;
- (b) that the basic wage for adult females be reduced ;
- (c) that the standard hours of work be increased ;
- (d) that the system of adjusting the basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers be abandoned.

2. The Metal Trades Federation, an association of employees' organizations, that the basic wage for adult males be increased, which would also have resulted in increasing the amount, though not the proportion it bore to the basic wage for adult males, of the basic wage for adult females.

A number of Governments, organizations and other bodies obtained leave to intervene and in this role the Australian Council of Trade Unions supported the claims of the Metal Trades Federation.

The Court consisted of Kelly *C.J.*, Foster, Kirby, Dunphy, Wright, McIntyre and Morgan *JJ.*, but before the hearing of evidence commenced Wright *J.* withdrew and during the hearing of the case Foster *J.* withdrew from the bench. The Court gave its decision on 12th September, 1953, and stated that reasons for its decision would be delivered later. Before the reasons for the judgment could be delivered McIntyre *J.*, who had been ill during the case, died.

In the early stages of the case the employers applied for an immediate and separate hearing on the question of suspension of the basic wage adjustment provisions in awards. The Court, however, after hearing argument, indicated that it was not satisfied that a sufficient case had been made out for such a separate hearing.

Evidence in the employers' case began on 16th September, 1952. On completion of the employers' case the counsel for employee organizations submitted that there was "no case to answer" and asked for the dismissal of the case. The Court rejected this claim and the hearing of evidence for the employee organizations was concluded on 11th September, 1953.

The decision of the Court, announced on 12th September, 1953, was expressed in the following terms:—

- "1. The employers' applications for reduction of the current basic wages for adult males and for reduction of the current basic wages for adult females are refused.
2. The employers' applications for an increase of the standard hours of work in the industries covered thereby are refused.
3. The employers' applications for omission or deletion of clauses or sub-clauses providing for the adjustment of basic wages are granted.
4. The Unions' applications for increases of basic wages are refused.

The Court makes orders accordingly, to operate as from today.

The reasons for the above decision will be delivered at a later date.

The form of the appropriate orders will be settled by the Industrial Registrar."

The reasons for the above decision were delivered on 27th October, 1953.

The Court in the course of its judgment said that in the present case nothing had been put before the Court in support of a departure from its now well-established principle that the basic wage should be the highest that the capacity of the community as a whole could sustain. If the Court is at any time asked to fix a basic wage on a true needs basis, the question of whether such a method is correct in principle and all questions as to the size of the family unit remain open.

No evidence was submitted in the inquiry to suggest that the basic wage in its character of a "foundational wage" of providing, or helping to provide, a just and reasonable standard of living to employees whose income is based or dependent upon it, was inadequate, and the arguments of both the employers and employees were directed towards a basic wage based on the capacity of industry to pay.

The Court, in reviewing the claims of the respondents, in the light of the existing economic situation, indicated that although aware of the difficulties besetting industry and of the dependence of Australia's prosperity upon that large part of her productive effort whose rewards are conditioned by good seasons and whose prices are largely beyond her control, the Court

was satisfied that the employers had not discharged the onus of proving that the existing situation called for a reduction of general standards either in the matter of the basic wage or in the matter of the ordinary working week. The Court was satisfied that there could be, in the existing situation, no increase in the basic wage, as was claimed by the Metal Trades Federation.

The Court decided to discontinue the system of automatically adjusting the basic wage in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers while the basic wage was assessed on the capacity of industry. It was considered that "the further the Court has withdrawn from relating the basic wage to the fulfilment of any particular standard of needs, the less has become the justification for keeping the nominal wage 'automatically adjusted' during the currency of an award".* Moreover, there was no ground for assuming that the capacity of industry to pay will be maintained at the same level or that it will rise or fall coincidentally with the purchasing power of money. The Court found that the system of automatic adjustments had undoubtedly been an accelerating factor in the rapid increase in prices in Australia particularly in the years 1951 and 1952 and this factor supported the Court's decision to discontinue the system.

In regard to the basic wage for female employees, the Court decided that no basis existed, on the material presented to it, for a review of the existing ratio of the female to the male basic wage, the Court being satisfied that industry had the capacity to maintain the existing female basic wage rates.

In rejecting the claim for an increase in the standard hours of work, the Court considered that the industry of the country was healthy and prosperous enough at present to sustain the existing standard (i.e., 40 hours per week).

The Court intimated that time would be saved in future inquiries if the parties to the disputes, in discussing the principle of the "capacity to pay", direct their attention to the broader aspects of the economy, such as indicated by a study of—

Employment.

Investment.

Production and Productivity.

Overseas Trade.

Overseas Balances.

Competitive position of secondary industry.

Retail Trade.

In order to remove certain misconceptions about the function of the Court it was stated during the course of the judgment that "the Arbitration Court is neither a social nor an economic legislature. Its function under Section 25 of the Act is to prevent or settle specific industrial disputes".† However, this function must be exercised in the social and economic setting of the time at which it makes its decision. It must settle industrial disputes upon terms which seem to it to be just, having regard to conditions which exist at the time of its decision. In addition, the Court stressed that "the primary rule that a claimant is required to substantiate his claim should always be observed."‡

In accordance with its decision to abolish the automatic adjustment clause from its awards, the Court began, on 21st October, 1953, to deal with awards which were not actually affected by the original order. During this process the Court announced that it had no other method in mind in

* 77 C.A.R., p. 497.

† Ibid., p. 506.

‡ Ibid., p. 507.

substitution of the automatic adjustment clauses. In fact the only issue before the Court was the abolition or retention of the adjustment principle and that issue had been determined. The basic wage as fixed by the Court in the new or amended clauses in awards was that operating from August, 1953, and no provision was made for its automatic quarterly adjustment.

The last such adjustment had been made on the "Court" series retail price index numbers for the June quarter, 1953.

After the Court had amended all the awards listed before it as a result of applications by one of the parties to the awards, the Court, on its own motion under Section 49 of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, listed those awards not the subject of an application by one of the parties and then proceeded to delete the clauses providing for the automatic adjustment of the basic wage.

The power of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to vary awards not the subject of an application by one of the parties was unsuccessfully challenged in the High Court of Australia.

(x) *Rates Operative, Principal Towns.*—The "basic" wage rates of the Commonwealth Court for adult males and females, operative in the principal towns of Australia as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953, are shown in the following table :—

Commonwealth Basic Wage : Weekly Rates(a), November, 1955.

City or Town.	Rate of Wage.		City or Town.	Rate of Wage.	
	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales—			Western Australia—		
Sydney	243 0	182 0	Perth	236 0	177 0
Newcastle	243 0	182 0	Kalgoorlie	243 0	182 0
Port Kembla-Wol-			Geraldton	249 0	186 6
longong	243 0	182 0	Five Towns (b) ..	237 0	177 6
Broken Hill	247 0	185 0			
Five Towns (b) ..	242 0	181 6	Tasmania—		
Victoria—			Hobart	242 0	181 6
Melbourne	235 0	176 0	Launceston	238 0	178 6
Geelong	235 0	176 0	Queenstown	233 0	174 6
Warrnambool	235 0	176 0	Five Towns (b) ..	240 0	180 0
Mildura	235 0	176 0			
Yallourn (c)	241 6	181 0	Thirty Towns (b) ..	236 0	177 0
Five Towns (b) ..	235 0	176 0			
Queensland—			Six Capital Cities (b) ..	236 0	177 0
Brisbane	218 0	163 6	Australian Capital Ter-		
Five Towns (b) ..	219 0	164 0	ritory—		
South Australia—			Canberra	238 0	178 6
Adelaide	231 0	173 0	Northern Territory(e)—		
Whyalla and Iron			Darwin	255 0	191 0
Knob (d)	236 0	177 0	South of 20th Paral-		
Five Towns (b) ..	230 0	172 6	lel	242 0	181 6

(a) Operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953. By decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced on 12th September, 1953, automatic adjustment of basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers was discontinued in Commonwealth awards. (b) Weighted average. (c) Melbourne rate plus 6s. 6d. for males; 75 per cent. of male rate for females. (d) Adelaide rate plus 5s. for males; 75 per cent. of male rate for females. (e) See pp. 72 and 74 regarding special loadings.

The rate for provincial towns, other than those mentioned above, is 3s. less than that for their respective capital cities.

The rate for adult females is 75 per cent. of the male rate.

A table of basic wage rates from 1923 to 1955 will be found in Section VI. of the Appendix.

3. Basic Wage Rates for Females.—(i) *General.*—In its judgment of 17th April, 1934, wherein the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration laid down the basis of its “needs” basic wage for adult males, the Court made the following statement in regard to the female rate:—

“The Court does not think it necessary or desirable, at any rate at the present time, to declare any wage as a basic wage for female employees. Generally speaking they carry no family responsibilities. The minimum wage should, of course, never be too low for the reasonable needs of the employee, but those needs may vary in different industries. In the variations now to be made the proportion in each award of the minimum wage for females to that of males will be preserved.”

The previous practice of the Court was therefore continued whereby each judge granted such proportion of the male rate as he deemed suited to the nature of the industry and the general circumstances of the case. Generally speaking, this proportion was in the vicinity of 54 per cent. of the male rate, although in some cases the proportion was about 56 per cent.

Until 1942 this continued to be substantially the practice of all Commonwealth and State industrial tribunals and in the main its continuance was then made mandatory by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations which “pegged” as at 10th February, 1942, all rates of remuneration previously prevailing in any employment. The only exceptions allowed were variations to rectify anomalies, variations resultant from hearings pending prior to 10th February, 1942 and “cost of living” variations.

In March, 1942, however, special action was taken to constitute a Women's Employment Board in conjunction with measures to encourage women to undertake, in war-time, work which would normally have been performed by men. This Board was given special jurisdiction to determine terms and conditions of such employment. The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and State Industrial Tribunals continued to determine rates of pay, etc., of women engaged in what may broadly be described as “women's work” in the pre-war sense, while the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was made to cover women engaged during the war in work formerly performed by men or in new work which immediately prior to the outbreak of the war was not performed in Australia by any person.

In July, 1944, National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations authorized the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to make comprehensive investigations (a) as to whether minimum rates of wage payable to females in industries considered by the Government to be necessary for war purposes were unreasonably low in comparison with minimum rates payable to females in other essential industries, (b) if so, as to whether it was in the national interest, and fair and just, to increase such rates, and (c) as to the amount of such increases. Determinations could be made for any period specified by the Court but not extending beyond six months after the end of the war. In making such determinations the Court was not bound by Part V. of the National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations,

although such regulations applied to the new rates after determination. The objective of the National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations was to remove disparities which were creating discontent and impeding the manpower authority in redistributing female labour to vital industries. This review commenced in the Court on 23rd February, 1945 and ended on 23rd March, judgment being reserved.

Judgment was delivered by the Full Court on 4th May, 1945,* to the effect that, in regard to (a) above, the majority of the Full Court (Piper C.J., O'Mara and Kelly JJ.) found itself unable to declare that the rates in the "referred"† industries were unreasonably low compared with those in the three industries submitted by the Crown and the union representatives as the standard rates for comparison, namely, those of the Clothing, Rubber and Metal industries, and that there was consequently no necessity to answer question (b). In a minority judgment, Drake-Brockman and Foster JJ. answered (a) and (b) in the affirmative.

Following this negative result, the Government, by National Security (Female Minimum Rates) Regulations (S.R. 1945, No. 139) dated 13th August, 1945, provided in respect of "vital" industries specified by the Minister by notice published in the *Gazette* that the remuneration of females employed therein should not be less than 75 per cent. of the corresponding minimum male rate. The validity of this Regulation was challenged in the High Court by Australian Textiles Pty. Ltd., but in a judgment dated 3rd December, 1945 the Court (Starke J. dissenting) held that the Regulations were a valid exercise of the powers under the National Security Act 1939-1943. The rates under this Regulation commenced to operate from 31st August, 1945.

As from 12th October, 1944, the Women's Employment Board was abolished and the Chairman of the Board (A. W. Foster) was made a judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. The function of the Board under the Women's Employment Act then devolved upon the Court as constituted by a judge designated by the Chief Judge. (See S.R. 1944, No. 149.)

The following sub-sections give a brief account of the functions allotted to and of the principles followed by the Women's Employment Board, and a summary of an important judgment delivered by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in 1943 stating the principles followed by the Court in fixing the basic rates payable to female workers and the difference between the rates payable to the women engaged in "women's work" and those payable to the special group of women engaged in "men's work" in war-time under the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board. The judgment also dealt with the question of "anomalies" as between the rates payable to the two classes of women workers.

(ii) *Women's Employment Board.*—The functions of the Women's Employment Board were specified by the Women's Employment Act 1942.‡ The purpose of the Act as expressed in the title was "to encourage and regulate the employment of women for the purpose of aiding the prosecution of the present war". The jurisdiction of the Board was limited to females employed (after 2nd March, 1942) on work usually performed by males or which, immediately prior to the outbreak of the war, was not performed in Australia by any person.

* 54 C.A.R., p. 613.

† Twelve vital industries were "referred" by the Government for consideration. ‡ The Board was originally created under regulations under the National Security Act 1939-1940, dated 25th March, 1942 (Statutory Rules 1942, No. 146), but owing to the disallowance of such regulations by the Senate on 23rd September, 1942, the Board operated as from 6th October, 1942, under the Women's Employment Act, No. 55 of 1942, which validated all previous decisions, etc., of the first Board (gazetted on 17th June, 1942). The second Board was created on 10th November, 1942.

The functions of the Board briefly were to decide what work and what female workers came within its jurisdiction (as defined) and the terms and conditions upon which women might be so employed including hours and special conditions as to safety, welfare and health. The Board was required to fix rates of payment for such women with regard to their efficiency and productivity in relation to that of males engaged in such work and the Regulations provided that payment to females (engaged on "men's work") should be not less than 60 per cent. nor more than 100 per cent. of the male rate.

The Board ceased to function in 1944 but the Women's Employment Regulations continued to operate until 1949, when, by a judgment of the High Court, such continuation was declared invalid. A summary of the activities of the Board during its period of operation was given in previous issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 36, page 84).

(iii) *Judgments by Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.*—On 24th March, 1943, a case involving determination of general principles as to rates of wage of female employees not within the jurisdiction of the Women's Employment Board was remitted to the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by the Minister for Labour and National Service under Regulation 9 of the National Security (Industrial Peace) Regulations, particularly as affecting female workers at Government small arms ammunition factories. The rates in these cases were considered by their trade union to be anomalous compared with those awarded by the Women's Employment Board to certain other women employed in those factories. The Court, in its judgment dated 17th June, 1943,* rejected the contentions of the union (The Arms Explosives and Munition Workers Federation of Australia) and enunciated in full the principles followed by the Court in determining female rates of wage within its jurisdiction.

In order to place the matter in perspective in its relation to the basic wage for males, the Court traced the history of the principles on which the basic wage for males was determined from its original declaration by Mr. Justice Higgins in his "Harvester" judgment of 1907 (*see* pp. 54-5 of this Report) and continued—

"Although since 1930, when the 'economic or productivity factor' emerged as the 'dominant factor' in the problem of assessment [of the basic wage of adult male employees], the adequacy of the wage to meet the requirements of any 'specified family unit' has been only a subsidiary consideration, subsidiary that is to say to the question of the capacity of the national production to sustain a particular wage level, it is plain that the Court has not held that its basic wage has been fixed at too low a figure to meet the normal and reasonable needs of a family of husband, wife and at least one child. Nor has its adequacy to that extent been questioned. In this sense it can still be regarded as a family wage, inasmuch as it has been accepted as sufficient at all events to provide 'frugal comfort' for a man, his wife and at least one dependent child. For present purposes it is enough to say that, until a proper investigation demonstrates the contrary to be the case, we cannot but hold that the amount provided is more than sufficient to meet the normal and reasonable requirements of an unmarried worker with no dependants to support out of his earnings. And the same may be said of the living or basic wages determined by authorities functioning under State legislation as appropriate for male

* 50 C.A.R., p. 191.

employees within their jurisdiction. The method of assessment of wage rates for adult male workers adopted and followed by industrial authorities throughout Australia has been to fix a basic wage portion adequate for the estimated needs of some family group and to add to that some additional payment in recognition of the skill or experience possessed by the worker or the special conditions met with in his particular occupation. The basic wage portion has had no reference to work value; it has been assessed in accordance with needs and it has never been either held or suggested to be inadequate to meet the normal and reasonable needs not only of the worker himself but also of his wife and at least one dependent child."

The Court in its judgment then set out decisions arrived at by various Commonwealth and State Courts since 1912 when the Commonwealth Court first dealt directly with the problem of women's wages. Mr. Justice Higgins dealt with the case, and stated "I fixed the minimum in 1907 of 7s. per day by finding the sum which would meet the normal needs of an average employee, one of his normal needs being the need for domestic life. If he has a wife and children, he is under an obligation—even a legal obligation—to maintain them. How is such a minimum applicable to the case of a woman . . . ? She is not, unless perhaps in very exceptional circumstances, under any such obligation. The minimum cannot be based on exceptional cases."

In respect of the "minimum rate" enjoined by the Commonwealth Arbitration Act, he held that "Nothing is clearer than that the 'minimum rate' referred to in Section 40 means the minimum rate for a class of workers, those who do work of a certain character. If blacksmiths are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that blacksmiths are usually men. If fruit-pickers are the class of workers, the minimum rate must be such as recognizes that, up to the present at least, most of the pickers are men (although women have been usually paid less), and that men and women are fairly in competition as to that class of work. If milliners are the class of workers, the minimum rate must, I think, be such as recognizes that all or nearly all milliners are women, and that men are not usually in competition with them."*

In its review the Court stated "the fixation of the basic wage for women at amounts below 60 per cent. of that fixed for men has been general in the awards and determinations of this Court and other industrial authorities of Australia".

The Court laid down general principles in the following words:—

"It is beyond question that the general rule adopted and followed by the Australian industrial authorities in the assessment of wages for adult women workers, engaged upon work suitable for women in which they cannot fairly be said to be in competition with men for employment, has been and still is to fix a foundational amount, calculated with reference to the needs of a single woman who has to pay for her board and lodging, has to maintain herself out of her earnings, but has no dependants to support; and to add to this foundational or basic amount such marginal amounts as may be appropriate in recognition of the particular skill or experience of the particular workers in question or as compensation for the particular conditions which they encounter in their occupations

* 6 C.A.R., p. 72.

"Just as the wages for male workers are assessed by adopting first a foundational wage—the basic wage—and adding to it marginal amounts fixed according to the relative skill and experience of particular workers or groups of workers, or to the special conditions they encounter, so too are women's wages, for work suitable to them in which they will not be disadvantaged by male competition, fixed by adding to a foundational or basic amount analogous margins. But in each case the foundational wage is in principle and justice different. The man's basic wage is more than sufficient for his personal needs; it purports to provide him with enough to support some family. The woman's, on the other hand, purports to be enough for her to maintain herself only. No allowance is made for the support of any dependants. The man's wage has been measured by this Court with reference to the dominating factor of the productive capacity of industry to sustain it and with due regard consequently to what its application in industry will mean, to the marginal structure which rises above it, and to the consequent wages which will in accordance with established rules and practice be paid to women and to minors.

"In the course of the hearing the Chief Judge drew attention to the necessity which would occur, if women's rates were to be assessed on the basis that relative efficiency and productivity (as between men and women) were to constitute the dominant factor, for a review of the principles in accordance with which the basic wage has been determined. That this necessity would arise must be apparent. For the basic wage for adult males has been fixed at as high an amount as the Court has thought practicable in all the circumstances of the case, including the circumstance of the existing proportionate levels of wages for women and minors. The share of men workers in the fruits of production will need to be reduced if women are to participate therein on an equal footing, or on a better footing generally than that to which they have hitherto been held to be entitled.

"It is desirable that we should indicate as clearly as possible the effect of the conclusions to which the review of the principles of wage assessment we have made has led us. It is that, so long as the foundational or basic wage for women is assessed according to a standard different from that which is the basis of the foundational or basic wage—a family wage—for men, the Court will not, in the exercise of its function of adjudicating between opposing interests, raise the general level of women's minimum wages in occupations suitable for women, and in which they do not encounter considerable competition from men, according to a comparison of their efficiency and productivity with the efficiency and productivity of men doing substantially similar work. To do so would at once depress the relative standard of living of the family as a group, and of its individual members, as compared with that of the typical single woman wage-earner."*

In December, 1943,† *Drake-Brockman J.* of this Court, in dealing with women employees in the Clothing (Dressmaking and Tailoring Sections) and Rubber industries, awarded for the duration of the war and for six months thereafter as a "flat rate" for the industry 75 per cent. of the "needs" basic wage, plus the "prosperity" and "industry" loadings ordinarily applicable. The reason for this action was (in the words of the

* 50 C.A.R., p. 191.

† 51 C.A.R., pp. 632 and 648.

judgment) as follows: "it was also common ground [between all the parties] that wastage of the employees in the industry during the last three years had been exceptionally heavy and that it was essential that some means should be found to attract women to the industry and thereafter to retain them for some reasonable period of time after they had been trained."

In July, 1944, the National Security (Female Minimum Wage) Regulations extended the discretion of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in fixing female minimum wage rates in "vital" industries in war-time as briefly described on page 63.

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1947 (*see* Labour Report No. 37, page 50) provided amongst other things that "a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award altering . . . (d) the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry." As the result of doubts which arose as to the powers of the Commissioners to "fix" a basic wage, the matter came before the Full Court of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for clarification at the instance of several trade unions. Judgment was delivered on 27th July, 1948, and it was held that Conciliation Commissioners had jurisdiction to fix the female rates in question under the provisions of the Act, but it was also held that the provision referred only to the basic element in any prescribed female rates. Where, however, such a prescribed rate did not specifically fix or disclose the basic wage element, the appropriate Conciliation Commissioner had to fix the rate, and when such rate had been fixed its alteration became a matter for the Court. In view of the fact that there were fifteen Commissioners whose views might differ as to the element of the rates of pay of adult females which could be ascribed to an adult female basic wage analogous to the basic wage for adult males, the Government in December, 1948 passed an Act (No. 77 of 1948) further amending the above-mentioned Act to authorize the Court—and the Court alone—to fix the basic rate by providing that "a Conciliation Commissioner shall not be empowered to make an order or award . . . (d) determining or altering the minimum rate of remuneration for adult females in an industry."

A further amending Act (No. 86 of 1949) empowered the Court to determine or alter a "basic wage for adult females" which was defined as "that wage, or that part of a wage, which is just and reasonable for an adult female, without regard to any circumstance pertaining to the work upon which, or the industry in which, she is employed."

At the end of the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 58) the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration by a majority decision fixed a new basic weekly wage for adult females at 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.

In the 1952-53 Basic Wage and Standard Hours Inquiry the employers claimed a reduction in the proportion the female basic wage bore to the male basic wage from 75 to 60 per cent. and based this claim on two grounds. The employers claimed that the existing ratio was unjust and unreasonable having regard to the principles of male basic wage fixation and also that the existing ratio constituted an additional burden on employers at a time when the economy was adversely affected by the level of wage costs. The first contention was based on the fact that the male basic wage was a family

wage whereas the female basic wage was to provide for only one person. The Court in its judgment stated that "no evidence was presented to enable it to assess the reasonable needs either of a family group, typical, average or appropriate or of a typical or average woman wage-earner whose wage should be within the concept of the definition of 'basic wage' in section 25"* (of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act).

On the second contention, the judgment stated that "the Court finds it impossible to say that the higher ratio of the women's basic wage to the men's, adopted by the 1950 decision, has resulted to date in either a significant degree of unemployment amongst women or, generally speaking, a comparatively greater wages cost burden having to be carried, at the expense of reasonable profits, by enterprises employing a relatively higher proportion of women workers."* The Court decided that there was no basis for a review of the existing ratio and ordered that the female basic wage should remain at 75 per cent. of the male basic wage.

4. **Australian Territories.**—(i) *Australian Capital Territory.*—Prior to 1922 the lowest rate payable to an unskilled labourer was not defined as a basic wage, as all wages were paid under the authority of the Federal Capital Commission as a lump sum for the particular occupation in which the worker was employed, but in 1922 an Industrial Board commenced to operate under a local Ordinance (see page 34). A summary of the decisions made by the Industrial Board during its period of operation was given in earlier issues of the Labour Report (see No. 40, page 89).

By an amending Ordinance, No. 4 of 1949, the Industrial Board was abolished and its functions were transferred to authorities established under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Industrial matters are now determined by either the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration or the Conciliation Commissioner assigned to the Australian Capital Territory. It was provided, however, that all existing orders and agreements should continue to operate subject to later orders, awards and determinations made by the Court or Commissioner.

In reviewing the Australian Capital Territory awards following its decision of 12th October, 1950, the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration fixed the Canberra basic wage at £8 5s. per week for adult males, operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in December, 1950.† This amount was the "needs" basic wage as expressed by the Court's Second Series index number for Canberra for the September quarter, 1950, with the prescribed addition of £1 5s. The new rate represented an increase of 13s. 6d. a week over that previously payable.

The basic wage payable in the Australian Capital Territory in November, 1955, in respect only of workers outside the Commonwealth Public Service, was £11 18s. a week for adult males and £8 18s. for adult females. These rates have not varied since August, 1953 following the decision by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in September, 1953 to discontinue quarterly basic wage adjustments (see page 59).

(ii) *Northern Territory.*—The determination of the basic wage for this Territory comes within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

There are, in fact, two basic wages operating—(a) in respect of areas north of the 20th parallel of south latitude, and generally referred to as the "Darwin" rate, and (b) in respect of areas south of that parallel. These are calculated on different bases as set out in the following paragraphs.

* 77 C.A.R., p. 504.

† 69 C.A.R., p. 486.

(a) *The Darwin Basic Wage*.—This wage was first determined by the Court in 1915* when the Deputy President (Powers J.) awarded a rate of £3 17s. per week, or 1s. 9d. per hour, for an unskilled labourer, which included an allowance of 4s. for lost time.

The basic wage level again came under consideration when the wage for carpenters and joiners was reviewed by Mr. Justice Powers in 1916-17.† The Judge referred to an agreement dated 2nd June, 1916, between the Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners and the Northern Agency (formerly Vestey Brothers) which provided for rates based on a budget of the estimated living requirements of a family consisting of a man, wife and two dependent children, amounting to £3 11s. 1d. per week. As the amount awarded (2s. 4d. per hour) for carpenters, however, was over £5 per week, the Judge felt that a fair living wage was fully assured. His Honor stated that he did not find anything to cause him to alter the judgment given on 15th March, 1915, when he prescribed a wage of 1s. 9d. per hour.

Up till 1924 the practice of the Court had been to fix the basic wage in accordance with the principles laid down in 1916, and in connexion with an application in 1924 concerning the rate for employees of the Commonwealth Railways, when the wage for these workers stood at £5 4s. 6d., the Judge (Powers J.) refused to alter the wage. He stated that he had in mind the amount of £4 12s., to which he would have felt justified in adding £1 to compensate for the many disadvantages caused by isolation, especially the loss of or extra expense of the proper education of the children. He considered, therefore, that the wage of £5 4s. 6d. then payable contained a special allowance on such account, and that the question of such special allowances was a matter for employers and employees to settle between themselves.‡

In 1927§ Judge Beeby also referred to the regimen of 1916, and implied that since then it had formed the foundation of the basic wages fixed by the Court, and that the sufficiency of the regimen, except as to rent and one or two minor omissions, had never been questioned. On this occasion he fixed the basic wage at £5 10s. per week, or 2s. 6d. per hour, including 20s. per week district allowance which was suggested by Mr. Justice Powers in his 1924 award as being a reasonable amount.

As there was no adjustment clause in operation in Territory awards, the basic wage of £5 10s. per week remained in operation until 1934 (except for the reduction by the Financial Emergency Act 1931 to £4 16s. 3d.).

In 1934|| the Full Court for the first time considered the basic wage. The Court brought the regimen of the 1916 agreement up to date, altered the rent figure from 45s. to 65s. per month, and arrived at the amount of £4 10s. 9d. per week. This was £1 4s. 9d. above the Court's "needs" basic wage recently declared for the six capital cities, the Court regarding the difference as representing the extra amount required to purchase the same standard of living as in the six capital cities, with nothing by way of compensation allowance. Automatic adjustment provisions first introduced into the awards by this judgment were effected by inserting an appropriate adjustment scale based on the equation of £4 10s. 9d. to the Food and Groceries retail price index number (Special) 1,184 for Darwin for the month of August, 1934.

In 1938¶ the Court granted a "loading" of 3s. per week on the wage because the Commonwealth Government had extended to the Territory its general civil service increase of £8 per annum.

* 9 C.A.R., p. 1.
|| 33 C.A.R., p. 944.

† 11 C.A.R., p. 51.
¶ 39 C.A.R., p. 501.

‡ 20 C.A.R., p. 737.

§ 25 C.A.R., p. 898.

In 1939 an additional amount was added to the basic wage as a special loading to offset the increase in the cost of living not reflected by the index numbers. The loading was 16s. 3d. for employees on works and 10s. for railway employees.* In February, 1940, before an automatic adjustment increase of 2s. became payable, the Court suspended the adjustment clause pending further inquiry.†

In 1941‡ the Full Court again reviewed the basic wage and, after a full investigation of its past history, awarded £5 12s. 9d., made up of (a) £4 10s. 9d. awarded in 1934; (b) 4s. in respect of accrued adjustments since 1939; (c) 5s. additional allowance for rent; and (d) two constant (unadjustable) "loadings" of 3s. and 10s. per week. The Court also restored the adjustment clause by equating £4 15s. 9d. of the foregoing amounts (£4 10s. 9d. plus 5s. rent) to the base index 1,184 of the former adjustment scale (based solely on the Food and Groceries price index number). This, however, never became effective owing to its being superseded early in 1942 by the Blakeley Orders referred to below. The two "loadings" were not made adjustable. All other "loadings" mentioned above were dropped.

The basis of adjustment was altered by A. Blakeley, C.C., by Orders dated 29th January, 1942,§ owing to the urgent necessity to provide, over the period of the war, for adjustments in respect of rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure which, with the exception of rent, had already increased considerably in price throughout Australia, and threatened to increase further as the war continued. Adjustment by means only of the Food and Groceries Index was therefore no longer doing justice to the workers of the Territory, since the workers elsewhere in Australia were enjoying the benefit derived from the adjustment of their wages by means of the more comprehensive "C" series retail price index.

As there was no "C" series retail price index for the Territory, nor was it possible to compile one on the basis of prices in Darwin, the only alternative was to create a "composite" index with the help of prices for these additional items from some other town of somewhat similar living conditions. The town selected as being most suitable for this purpose was Townsville, and the "composite" index was therefore computed on the basis of food and groceries prices in Darwin, combined with Townsville prices for rent, clothing and other miscellaneous items of domestic expenditure mentioned above, the index being designated "The Darwin Special 'All Items' Index".

Taking the December quarter, 1940, as a suitable period upon which adjustments should be based, for which quarter the Special "All Items" index number was 1,036, the Court's basic wage of £4 19s. 9d. (including 4s. for accrued adjustments) declared in its judgment of 7th April, 1941† was related (not "equated") to the index number division (1031-1043) containing index number 1,036 of the "C" series adjustment scale formerly used by the Court in its awards (Base: 1923-27 = 1,000 = 81s.), thus giving workers in the Territory the same basis of adjustment as that operating in respect of all workers throughout Australia coming within the jurisdiction of the Court. It should be noted in this connexion that the Court's "needs" equivalent of index number 1,036 was 84s., so that 15s. 9d. of the Darwin wage was left "unadjustable". The rate payable from 1st February, 1942 (when the new basis first became operative), on the basis of index number 1,099 for the December quarter, 1941, was therefore £5 17s. 9d.,

* 40 C.A.R., p. 323 and 41 C.A.R., p. 269.

† 42 C.A.R., p. 164.

‡ 44 C.A.R., p. 253.

§ 46 C.A.R., p. 411.

inclusive of 5s. by adjustments under the scale since the December quarter, 1940 (1,036), and the two unadjustable "loadings" of 3s. and 10s. granted by the Court's judgment of 7th April, 1941.

Following the bombing of Darwin on 19th February, 1942, and on subsequent occasions, it was no longer possible to obtain even food and groceries prices in Darwin, and prices from Alice Springs and Tennant Creek were substituted for those of Darwin in the Special Index by means of a suitable "graft" of the new to the old prices in order to cancel out the effect on the index due solely to this substitution.*

On an application by the unions for the addition to the basic wage in the Territory of the amount of 7s. per week added by the Court elsewhere in Australia by its "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946 [see page 57, (vii)], the Full Court on 13th March, 1947, decided to postpone the matter pending a general review of the basic wage in the Territory, although the Court granted the amount in the case of areas south of the 20th parallel of south latitude (see below). This further review was opened in Darwin with preliminary evidence taken by J. H. Portus, C.C., on 16th February, 1948, and ultimately dealt with by the Full Court in Adelaide on 20th May, 1948. The Court made an "interim" judgment, pending the hearing and finalization of the basic wage inquiry held in 1949-50 at the instance of the combined unions throughout Australia [see page 58, (viii)], granting the current equivalent of the 7s. referred to above, namely, 8s. In the judgment the Court adopted as from the March quarter, 1948, the new Darwin Special "All Items" Index (containing the restored prices of food and groceries for Darwin proper, plus Townsville prices for rent, clothing and miscellaneous items), namely, 1,283, and transferred the basis of adjustment from the existing automatic adjustment scale ("C" Series) on 1,000 = 81s. per week to the new scale on 1,000 = 87s. per week [in conformity with the "Court" Index (2nd Series)]. The new basic wage was to come into operation from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing after 20th May, 1948. The resultant total basic wage payable was therefore £7 os. 9d., made up of £5 12s. (the "needs" equivalent of index number 1,283 mentioned above), the "unadjustable" amount of 15s. 9d. (see page 71) and the loadings of 3s. and 10s.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry an "interim" increase of £1 2s. per week was authorized pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory.† As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced, on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order "based upon the consent and agreement of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory of £10 10s. per week." The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Darwin Special "All Items" Index (see above) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index number of 1824 equated to 200s. per week. Subsequently by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner a special loading of 10s. per week, operative from the same date as the new basic wage, was added to the wage rates in most awards applicable to that part of the Northern Territory north of the 20th parallel of south latitude. This loading should be taken into account in any analysis or comparison involving the basic wage component of such wage rates.

* 48 C.A.R., p. 20.

† 69 C.A.R., p. 836.

The basic wage payable for this area of the Northern Territory in November, 1955, was £12 15s. a week for adult males. This rate has not varied since August, 1953 following the decision by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in September, 1953 to discontinue quarterly basic wage adjustments (*see* page 59).

(b) *Northern Territory (South of the 20th parallel of South Latitude).*—There are two main groups of employees in this area of the Northern Territory, namely, employees of the Commonwealth Railways and employees of the Department of Works (formerly the Works and Services Branch of the Department of the Interior).

The few Commonwealth Railways employees engaged in the area are at Alice Springs and in several small permanent-way gangs between Alice Springs and the South Australian border.

Prior to 1937, all employees of Commonwealth Railways, except clerks, were covered by awards of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, but since that year rates of pay for certain occupations have been prescribed by determinations of the Commonwealth Public Service Arbitrator. It has been the practice of the Court and the Public Service Arbitrator to fix a common base rate for Commonwealth Railways employees (the main centre being Port Augusta) and to provide, by means of "district allowances", additional rates to employees in isolated areas.

Prior to 3rd February, 1935, Commonwealth employees (other than Commonwealth Railways employees) engaged in the Northern Territory south of the 20th parallel of south latitude were paid the Darwin basic wage. The Full Court in a judgment issued on 13th November, 1934,* fixed a rate of 80s. per week for Works and Services employees, which included an amount of 7s. per week to cover the cost of freight on goods purchased from the Railway Stores at Port Augusta. This rate compared with £4 10s. 9d. being paid in areas north of the 20th parallel, and with £3 5s. in Adelaide.

Provision was also made for the adjustment of this wage to be made in the manner provided by the Court for railway employees at Alice Springs, namely, on the basis of the Court's "C" series adjustment scale in accordance with the variations of the "Special" index number for Port Augusta (inclusive of Railway Stores prices for groceries and dairy produce). Although no base index number was mentioned, it can be taken that the base index number division of the scale (800-820 = 66s.) was the starting point of the variations and was related to a total basic wage of £4, as this division contained "C" series index number 819 (Special) for the September quarter, 1934—from which it will also be observed that only 66s. of the total wage was actually adjustable.

The 3s. per week "loading" granted by the Court in 1938 (*see* page 70) applied to employees located south of the 20th parallel of south latitude as well as to those engaged north thereof.

At a hearing on 12th and 13th March, 1947, the Full Court granted to workers in this area the amount of 7s. per week consequent upon its "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of 13th December, 1946, as an addition to the "adjustable" part of the basic wage applicable. The questions raised as to a general review of the basic wage in the Territory as a whole were postponed pending the hearing and finalization of the basic wage inquiry held in 1949-50 at the instance of the combined unions of Australia (*see* page 58).

* 33 C.A.R., p. 947.

By an Order of 11th October, 1949, the Full Court amended the existing award to provide for the adjustment to date and thereafter (by means of the "C" Series Automatic Adjustment Scale) of the 7s. per week "excess" over the contemporaneous "needs" rate granted by the Full Court on 13th November, 1934 (*see* page 73). The relevant "Special" "C" series index number for the latter period (as indicated above) was 819, equivalent to a "needs" wage of £3 6s. per week, and the above adjustment was effected by an additional column to the scale calculated on the basis of raising the weekly "needs" equivalents by the ratio of 73s. to 66s., or by multiplying the successive weekly "needs" rates by the factor 1.10606. Thus, the base rate of the scale 1000 = 87s. became 96s.

The Order came into operation from the first Sunday in December, 1949, with the index number for the September quarter, 1949 as the starting point. The "needs" rate for this was £6 1s. which by the above formula became £6 14s., and to this were added the loadings previously payable of 7s. for "Freight Costs" and 3s. for "Prosperity" loading, making a total basic wage of £7 4s., representing an increase of 6s. per week over the basic wage calculated on the former basis.

Consequent upon the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 58) an "interim" increase of £1 2s. per week was authorized pending a special inquiry into the fixation of a new basic wage for the Northern Territory. As a result of the latter inquiry the Court announced, on 19th November, 1951, that it would make an order "based upon the consent and agreement of the parties for a basic wage in the Northern Territory at £10 10s. per week". The new rates were operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1951. The Port Augusta Special "All Items" Index (*see* above) was retained as the basis for subsequent quarterly adjustments but with the index number of 1757 equated to 194s. per week. Subsequently, by decisions of the Conciliation Commissioner, a special loading of 7s. per week operative from the same date as the new basic wage was added to the wage rates in most awards applicable to that part of the Northern Territory south of the 20th parallel of south latitude. This loading should be taken into account in any analysis or comparison involving the basic wage component of such wage rates.

The basic wage for this area of the Northern Territory in November, 1955 was £12 2s. a week for adult males. This rate has not varied since August, 1953 following the decision by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in September, 1953 to discontinue quarterly basic wage adjustments (*see* page 59).

5. State Basic Wages.—(i) *New South Wales.*—The first determination under the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act of a standard "living" wage for adult male employees was made on 16th February, 1914, when the Court of Industrial Arbitration fixed the "living" wage at £2 8s. per week for adult male employees in the metropolitan area. A Board of Trade established in 1918, with power to determine the "living" wage for adult male and female employees in the State, made numerous declarations during the period 1918 to 1925, but ceased to function after the Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1926 transferred its powers to the Industrial Commission of New South Wales, as from 15th April, 1926. The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1927 altered the constitution of the Industrial Commission from a single Commissioner to one consisting of three members. Act No. 14 of 1936, however, provided for the appointment of four members and

Act No. 36 of 1938 for the appointment of not less than five and not more than six members. The Commission was directed, *inter alia*, "not more frequently than once in every six months to determine a standard of living and to declare . . . the living wages based upon such standard for adult male and female employees in the State." The Industrial Arbitration (Amendment) Act 1932 directed the Commission within twenty-eight days from the end of the months of March and September to adjust the living wages so declared to accord with the increased or decreased cost of maintaining the determined standard. The first declaration of the Commission was made on 15th December, 1926, when the rate for adult males was fixed at £4 4s. per week, the same rate as that previously declared by the Board of Trade. The adult male rate was determined on the family unit of a man, wife and two children from 1914 to 1925; a man and wife only in 1927, with family allowances for dependent children; and a man, wife, and one child in 1929, with family allowances for other dependent children. With the adoption in 1937 of the Commonwealth basic wage, however (*see below*), the identification of a specified family unit with the basic wage disappeared.

Employees in rural industries are not covered by the rates shown in the following table; a living wage for rural workers of £3 6s. per week was in force for twelve months from October, 1921 and a rate of £4 4s. operated from June, 1927 to December, 1929, when the power of industrial tribunals to fix a living wage for rural workers was withdrawn.

The variations in the living wage determined by the industrial tribunals of New South Wales are shown below :—

Basic Wage Declarations in New South Wales.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Male.		Female.	
Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.	Date of Declaration.	Basic Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
16th February, 1914 ..	2 8 0	..	..
17th December, 1915 ..	2 12 6	..	..
18th August, 1916 ..	2 15 6	..	..
5th September, 1918 ..	3 0 0	17th December, 1918 ..	1 10 0
8th October, 1919 ..	3 17 0	23rd December, 1919 ..	1 19 0
8th October, 1920 ..	4 5 0	23rd December, 1920 ..	2 3 0
8th October, 1921 ..	4 2 0	22nd December, 1921 ..	2 1 0
12th May, 1922 ..	3 18 0	9th October, 1922 ..	1 19 6
10th April, 1923 ..	3 19 0		2 0 0
7th September, 1923 ..	4 2 0		2 1 6
24th August, 1925 ..	4 4 0		2 2 6
27th June, 1927 ..	4 5 0		2 6 0
20th December, 1929 ..	4 2 6		2 4 6
26th August, 1932 ..	3 10 0		1 18 0
11th April, 1933 ..	3 8 6		1 17 0
20th October, 1933 ..	3 6 6		1 16 0
26th April, 1934 ..	3 7 6		1 16 6
18th April, 1935 ..	3 8 6		1 17 0
24th April, 1936 ..	3 9 0		(b) 1 17 6
27th October, 1936 ..	3 10 0		1 18 0
27th April, 1937 ..	3 11 6(c)		1 18 6

(a) From 1923 dates of declaration were the same as those for male rates. (b) Rate declared, £1 15s. 6d., but law amended to provide a rate for females at 54 per cent. of that for males. (c) From October, 1937 the rates follow those of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for New South Wales.

Following on the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 23rd June, 1937 (see page 56), the Government of New South Wales decided to bring the State basic wage into line with the Commonwealth rates ruling in the State, and secured an amendment of the Industrial Arbitration Act (No. 9 of 1937) to give effect thereto. The Act came into operation from the commencement of the first pay-period in October, 1937. The general principles laid down by the Commonwealth Court were followed as closely as practicable and provision was made for the automatic adjustment of wages in conformity with variations of retail prices as shown by the Commonwealth Court's "All Items" retail price index numbers, shortly known as the "Court" series of index numbers. The Commonwealth Court's principle of treating the "Prosperity" loadings as a separate and non-adjustable part of the total basic wage was adopted. The rates for country towns were, with certain exceptions, fixed at 3s. per week below the metropolitan rate; and Crown employees, as defined, received a "Prosperity" loading of 5s. per week, as against the 6s. laid down for employees in outside industry. The basic rate for adult females was fixed at 54 per cent. of the adult male rate to the nearest sixpence. The provisions of the main Acts for the periodic declaration of the living wage by the Industrial Commission were repealed, but the amending Act placed on the Commission the responsibility of altering all awards and agreements in conformity with the intentions of the new Act; of defining boundaries within which the various rates are to operate;* and of specifying the appropriate "Court" series retail price index numbers to which they are to be related.

An amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act was assented to on 23rd November, 1950, which empowered the Industrial Commission to vary the terms of awards and industrial agreements affecting male rates of pay, to the extent to which the Commission thought fit, to give effect to the alteration in the basic wage for adult males made by the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of 12th October, 1950. In the case of female rates of pay the Commission was empowered to review the terms of awards and industrial agreements and to vary such terms as in the circumstances the Commission decided proper, but no variation was to fix rates of pay for female employees lower than the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females.

To facilitate the work of the Commission, awards were divided into separate classes, and orders issued regarding the variations to be made to those in each class. The rates for adult males were increased by the same amounts as the corresponding Commonwealth rates, with special provision to cover the cases of apprentices, casual workers and employees on piecework. In deciding the variation for female employees the Commission prescribed an increase in the total wage rate (i.e., basic wage plus marginal rate) of £1 4s. 6d. per week subject to the statutory provision (incorporated in the amendment of 23rd November) that the minimum total rate was to be not less than the basic wage for adult females prescribed in Commonwealth awards, that is, at least 75 per cent. of the corresponding male basic wage rate.

In the judgment delivered on 9th March, 1951, giving reasons for its decision on female rates, the Commission decided that the basic wage for adult females prescribed by the Commonwealth Court in reality included a portion "due to secondary considerations," and could not be considered a "reasonable and proper basic wage for the assessment of rates of female employees under the Industrial Arbitration Act".

* 52 N.S.W. I.G., pp. 783-4.

In discussing the composition of the amount of £6 3s. 6d. which the Commonwealth Court, in its judgment of October, 1950, had prescribed as the basic wage for adult females in New South Wales, the Commission stated:—

“After giving the matter fullest consideration, we think in the circumstances it is reasonable to allocate £1 of the said sum of £6 3s. 6d. to secondary considerations and to regard the amount of £1 4s. 6d. as an addition proper to be made to the pre-existing basic wage in New South Wales of £3 19s. The total, £5 3s. 6d., becomes therefore the true female basic wage in New South Wales”.*

As a consequence of the overriding statutory requirement that no rate for adult females in State awards shall fall below the Commonwealth basic wage for adult females, the amount of the quarterly adjustments to the female basic wage for changes in the “Court” series index numbers is the same in Commonwealth and State awards.

By an amendment to the Industrial Arbitration Act in June, 1951, the differentiation in rates for the basic wage in different districts and for employees under Crown awards was eliminated as a general rule, making the basic wage throughout most of the State equal to that paid in Sydney, the main exception being the Broken Hill district where a different basic rate still prevails.

The decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in September, 1953 to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage consequent on changes in the “Court” series retail price index numbers was considered by the New South Wales Industrial Commission. On 23rd October, 1953 the Commission certified that there had been an alteration in the principles upon which the Commonwealth basic wage was computed and ordered the deletion of the automatic adjustment clauses from awards and agreements within its jurisdiction.† In October, 1955 however, the New South Wales Government passed the Industrial Arbitration (Basic Wage) Amendment Act which required the Registrar of the Industrial Commission to restore, to all awards and agreements within its jurisdiction, quarterly adjustments of the basic wage consequent on variations in retail price index numbers. Subsequently the basic wage was adjusted as from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1955, when the rates for the State, excluding Broken Hill, became £12 13s. for adult males and £9 9s. 6d. for adult females.

The new rate of £12 13s. a week for adult males was an increase of 10s. on the rate previously payable from August, 1953 and represented the full increase in the “C” series of retail price index numbers between June, 1953 and September, 1955.

The principle of supplementing wages by a payment in respect of dependent children under fourteen years of age operated in New South Wales from July, 1927, until superseded by the Commonwealth Government scheme from 1st July, 1941, and a brief account of the main features of the system appeared on page 103 of Labour Report No. 36.

(ii) *Victoria*.—There is no provision in Victorian industrial legislation for the declaration of a State basic wage. Wages Boards constituted from representatives of employers and employees and an independent chairman, for each industry group or calling, determine the minimum rate of wage to be paid in that industry or calling. In general, these Boards have adopted a basic wage in determining the rate of wage to be paid.

* 1951 N.S.W. A.R., p. 16.

† 111 N.S.W. I.G., p. 128.

By an amendment to the Factories and Shops Act in 1934, Wages Boards were given discretionary power to include in their determinations appropriate provisions of relevant Commonwealth awards. A further amendment to this Act in 1937 made it compulsory for Wages Boards to adopt such provisions of Commonwealth awards. This amending Act also gave Wages Boards power to adjust wage rates "with the variation from time to time of the cost of living as indicated by such retail price index numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician as the Wages Board considers appropriate". The Wages Boards thus adopted the basic wages declared by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and followed that Court's system of adjusting the basic wage in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

After the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration discontinued the system of automatic adjustment of the Commonwealth basic wage (*see* page 59), a number of Wages Boards met in September, 1953 and deleted references to these adjustments. However, an amendment to the Factories and Shops Act in November, 1953 required Wages Boards to provide for the automatic adjustment of wage rates in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

From 1st July, 1954 the Factories and Shops Acts 1928-1953 were replaced by the Labour and Industry Act 1953, which was, in general, a consolidation of the previous Acts and retained the requirement providing for the automatic adjustment of wages in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

The rates generally payable under the Victorian Wages Boards determinations from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in November, 1955, were £12 6s. for adult males and £9 4s. 6d. for adult females.

(iii) *Queensland*.—The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1929 repealed the Industrial Arbitration Act of 1916 and amendments thereof, and the Basic Wage Act of 1925. The Board of Trade and Arbitration was abolished, and a Court, called the Industrial Court, was established. The Act provides that it shall be the duty of the Court to make declarations as to—(a) the "basic" wage, and (b) the maximum weekly hours to be worked in industry (called the "standard" hours). For the purposes of making any such declarations the Court shall be constituted by the Judge and two members one of whom shall be also a member of the Queensland Prices Board.

The main provisions to be observed by the Court when determining the "basic" wage are—(a) the minimum wage of an adult male employee shall be not less than is sufficient to maintain a well-conducted employee of average health, strength and competence, and his wife and a family of three children in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the conditions of living prevailing among employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed, and provided that the earnings of the children or wife of such employee shall not be taken into account; (b) the minimum wage of an adult female employee shall be not less than is sufficient to enable her to support herself in a fair and average standard of comfort, having regard to the nature of her duties and to the conditions of living prevailing among female employees in the calling in respect of which such minimum wage is fixed. The Court shall, in the matter of making declarations in regard to the "basic" wage or "standard" hours, take into consideration the probable economic effect of such declaration in relation to the community in general, and the probable economic effect thereof upon industry or any industry or industries concerned.

The first formal declaration of a basic wage by the Queensland Court of Industrial Arbitration was gazetted on 24th February, 1921, when the basic wage was declared at £4 5s. per week for adult males and £2 3s. for adult females. Prior to this declaration the rate of £3 17s. per week for adult males had been generally recognized by the Court in its awards as the "basic" or "living" wage. The declarations of the Industrial Court are published in the *Queensland Industrial Gazette* and the rates declared at various dates are as follows:—

Basic Wage Declarations in Queensland.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.		Date of Operation.	Adult Basic Wage.	
	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st March, 1921 ..	4 5 0	2 3 0	1st April, 1938 ..	4 11 0	2 3 0
1st March, 1922 ..	4 0 0	2 1 0	7th August, 1939 ..	4 4 0	2 5 0
28th September, 1925(a)	4 5 0	2 3 0	31st March, 1941 ..	4 9 0	2 8 0
1st August, 1930 ..	4 0 0	2 1 0	4th May, 1942(b)	4 11 0	2 9 6
1st December, 1930 ..	3 17 0	1 19 6	23rd December, 1946(c)	5 5 0	3 0 6
1st July, 1931 ..	3 14 0	1 19 0	7th December, 1950(c)	7 14 0	5 2 6
1st April, 1937 ..	3 18 0	2 1 0	1st February, 1954(d)	11 5 0	7 11 0

(a) Fixed by Basic Wage Act. 1942—see below.

(b) Quarterly adjustments provided by judgment of 21st April, 1942—see below.

(c) Consequent upon basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

(d) Rates declared in 1954 Basic Wage Inquiry (see page 80).

On 15th April, 1942, the Court declared the rates operative from 31st March, 1941 as adequately meeting the requirements of Section 9 of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1932, having regard to the level of the "C" Series Retail Price Index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1941, and decided to make a quarterly declaration of the basic wage on the basis of the variations in the "cost of living" as disclosed by the "C" Series Index for Brisbane, commencing with the figures for the March quarter, 1942. This declaration was duly made by the Court on 21st April, 1942, at the rates of £4 11s. for adult males and £2 9s. 6d. for adult females. Following this judgment regular quarterly adjustments were made to the basic wage until January, 1953 (see below).

The Queensland Industrial Court granted increases of 7s. and 5s. to the basic wages for adult males and adult females respectively, payable from 23rd December, 1946, following the "interim" basic wage judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced earlier in December, 1946 (see page 57).

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to increase the male and female basic wages from December, 1950 (see page 58), the Queensland Industrial Court conducted an inquiry as to what change should be made to the State basic wage for Queensland. The Industrial Court granted an increase of 15s. weekly to both adult males and adult females, thus increasing the metropolitan rates to £7 14s. per week and £5 2s. 6d. per week respectively. The increase became operative from 7th December, 1950. The basic wage payable to adult females was approximately 66 per cent. of the male rate.*

* Qld. I.G., Vol. 35, No. 4, p. 1253.

In January, 1953 the Queensland Industrial Court departed from the practice (established in 1942) of varying the basic wage in accordance with quarterly variations in the "C" series of retail price index numbers for Brisbane. If the practice had been continued, a reduction of 1s. in the basic wage for adult males from January, 1953 would have been made. The Court was not satisfied, however, that the movement in the "C" series index for Brisbane for the December quarter, 1952 was a true representation or reflex of the economic position for Queensland as a whole and so declined to make any alteration to the then existing basic wage.*

Quarterly adjustments were made for the next four quarters and the basic wage became £11 5s. for adult males from 1st February, 1954.

Commencing in March, 1954 a Basic Wage Inquiry was conducted by the Court and in its judgment of 11th June, 1954 the Court stated that there would be no change in the basic wage rates declared for February, 1954.†

At subsequent hearings consequent on the movement in the "C" series of retail price index numbers for Brisbane in respect of the quarters ended 30th June, 30th September and 31st December, 1954 and 31st March, 1955 the Court again decided not to vary the existing basic wage rates. However, after considering the "C" series index number for the quarter ended 30th June, 1955 and its relation to the index number for the March quarter, 1955 the Court announced that as these figures showed a continued upward trend of cost of living in 1955 the basic wage for adult males should be increased from £11 5s. to £11 7s. from 1st August, 1955. In this judgment the Court emphasised that it holds itself free whether or not to adjust the basic wage upwards or downwards in accordance with movement of the "C" series retail price index number.

Subsequently, the basic wage rates were again increased by the Court following the movement in the "C" series retail price index number for the quarter ended 30th September, 1955 and the rates payable from 24th October, 1955 became £11 9s. for adult males and £7 14s. for adult females in the Southern Division (Eastern District).

The rates shown above are applicable throughout the Southern Division (Eastern District—including Brisbane); allowances are added for other areas as follows:—Southern Division (Western District), 7s. 4d.; Mackay Division, 5s. 6d.; Northern Division (Eastern District), 10s.; and Northern Division (Western District), 17s. 4d. Half of these allowances are granted to females.‡

(iv) *South Australia*.—The Industrial Code 1920-1951 provides that the Board of Industry shall, after public inquiry as to the increase or decrease in the average cost of living, declare the "living wage" to be paid to adult male employees and to adult female employees. The Board has power also to fix different rates to be paid in different defined areas.

It is provided that the Board of Industry shall hold an inquiry for the purpose of declaring the "living wage" whenever a substantial change in the cost of living or any other circumstance has, in the opinion of the Board, rendered it just and expedient to review the question of the "living wage", but a new determination cannot be made by the Board until the expiration of at least six months from the date of its previous determination.

The Board of Industry consists of five members, one nominated by the Minister for Industry, two nominated by the South Australian Employers' Federation as representatives of employers, and two nominated by the

* Qld. I.G., Vol. 38, p. 137.

† Qld. I.G., Vol. 39, p. 355.

‡ As defined in *Queensland*

Industrial Gazette, 10th December, 1921, page 826.

United Trades and Labour Council of South Australia as representatives of employees. The member nominated by the Minister is President and presides at all meetings of the Board.

According to the Industrial Code 1920-1951, "living wage" means a sum sufficient for the normal and reasonable needs of the average employee living in the locality where the work under consideration is done or is to be done.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Code, but the South Australian Industrial Court in 1920 decided that the "average employee" in respect of whom the "living wage" is to be declared is a man with a wife and three children.

The first declaration by the Board of Industry was made on 15th July, 1921, when the "living wage" for adult male employees in the metropolitan area was determined at £3 19s. 6d. per week. The "living wage" for adult female employees in the same area was declared on 11th August, 1921 at £1 15s. per week.

The "living wage" declarations by the Board of Industry are set out below. The rates apply to the whole State.

Living Wage Declarations in South Australia.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Male.		Female.	
Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.	Date of Operation.	Living Wage per Week.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
4th August, 1921 ..	3 19 6	1st September, 1921 ..	1 15 0
27th April, 1922 ..	3 17 6	..	..
8th November, 1923 ..	3 18 6	..	..
15th May, 1924 ..	4 2 0	13th November, 1924 ..	1 18 0
13th August, 1925 ..	4 5 6	3rd September, 1925 ..	1 19 6
30th October, 1930 ..	3 15 0	15th January, 1931 ..	1 15 0
10th September, 1931 ..	3 3 0	24th December, 1931 ..	1 11 6
7th November, 1935 ..	3 6 0	16th January, 1936 ..	1 13 0
7th January, 1937 ..	3 9 6	29th April, 1937 ..	1 14 9
25th November, 1937 ..	3 14 0	} (a) }	1 16 6
5th January, 1939 ..	3 18 0		1 18 0
28th November, 1940 ..	4 4 0		2 1 0
27th November, 1941 ..	4 7 0		2 3 6
15th October, 1942 ..	4 14 0		2 6 2
26th September, 1946 ..	4 18 6		2 15 0
7th January, 1947 ^(b) ..	5 2 0		2 17 0
8th July, 1948 ..	5 17 0		3 6 6
19th May, 1949 ..	6 5 0		3 8 6

(a) From 1937 dates of operation were the same as those for male rates.

(b) Commonwealth rate for metropolitan area adopted.

Following on the declaration of an "interim" increase in its "needs" basic wage by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 13th December, 1946 (see page 58) the South Australian Government made provision through the Economic Stability Act, 1946 for the declaration by the Governor of a "living wage" based on the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. This action was taken because the Board of Industry had made a determination on 5th September, 1946 and under the Industrial Code was not able to make a further determination for six months. On 24th December, 1946 the Governor issued a proclamation, declaring a rate of £5 2s. per week, including the 4s. "Prosperity" loading, to operate from

7th January, 1947. The Economic Stability Act also provided for similar proclamations in respect of adjustments to the "living wage"; however, the powers of the Board of Industry to declare a "living wage" which would supersede any wage declared by proclamation were retained.

The Industrial Code Amendment Act, 1949 made provision for the quarterly adjustment of the "living wage" in accordance with the variations in the Commonwealth basic wage for Adelaide. In effect this made the State living wage and the Commonwealth basic wage equal from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in February, 1950. The prescribed adjustment to the female "living wage" was seven-twelfths of that made to the Commonwealth male basic wage. The Board of Industry retained power to amend the "living wage" but any new "living wage" was to be adjusted quarterly as above.

Following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949-50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 58), the South Australian Industrial Code was amended to provide for declarations of the "living wage" by proclamation to prevent unjustifiable differences between the Commonwealth and State basic wages. By proclamation dated 30th November, 1950, the South Australian living wage in the metropolitan area was increased from £6 17s. to £7 18s. for adult males and from £3 14s. 11d. to £5 18s. 6d. for adult females, operative from 4th December, 1950. These new rates were identical with the December rates fixed by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for the metropolitan area of South Australia.

The female rate, which had previously been approximately 54 per cent. of the male basic wage, was, by the proclamation, increased to 75 per cent. of the corresponding male rate.

The basic wages of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration for Adelaide have remained unchanged from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in August, 1953, consequent on the discontinuance of quarterly adjustments (*see* page 60). The rates payable in accordance with the quarterly notifications, by the President of the Board of Industry, of the South Australian living wage for the metropolitan area have also remained unchanged over this period at £11 11s. for adult males and £8 13s. for adult females.

(v) *Western Australia*.—The Court of Arbitration, appointed under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1952, determines and declares the "basic wage" in this State. The Court consists of three members appointed by the Governor, one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employers, one on the recommendation of the industrial unions of employees, while the third member is a Judge of the Supreme Court. The last-mentioned member is the President of the Court.

The Industrial Arbitration Act 1912-1952 provides that the Court of Arbitration may determine and declare a basic wage at any time on its own motion, and must do so when requested by a majority of industrial unions or by the Western Australian Employers' Federation, with the limitation that no new determination shall be made within twelve months of the last preceding inquiry.

The term "basic wage" is defined in the Act as "a wage which the Court considers to be just and reasonable for the average worker to whom it applies". In determining what is just and reasonable the Court must take into account not only the "needs of an average worker" but also the "economic capacity of industry" and any other matters the Court deems relevant.

The family unit is not specifically defined in the Act, but it has been the practice of the Court to take as a basis of its calculations a man, his wife and two dependent children.

The Act provides that the Court of Arbitration may make adjustments of the basic wage each quarter if the official statement supplied to the Court by the State Government Statistician relating to the cost of living shows that a variation of 1s. or more per week has occurred, compared with the preceding quarter. These adjustments apply from the dates of declaration by the Court.

The annual and special declarations of the Court of Arbitration under the provisions of the Industrial Arbitration Act are shown for the various areas of the State in the following table. It must be noted that prior to 1950 the legislation differed from that outlined above. Particulars of the previous legislation will be found in earlier issues of the Labour Report.

Basic Wage Declarations in Western Australia.

(State Jurisdiction.)

Date of Operation.	Metropolitan Area.		South-West Land Division.		Goldfields Areas and Other Parts of State.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1st July, 1926 ..	£ s. d. 4 5 0	£ s. d. 2 5 11	£ s. d. 4 5 0	£ s. d. 2 5 11	£ s. d. 4 5 0	£ s. d. 2 5 11
" " 1929 ..	4 7 0	2 7 0	4 7 0	2 7 0	a4 7 0	a2 7 0
" " 1930 ..	4 6 0	2 6 5	4 5 0	2 5 11	4 5 0	2 5 11
" " 1931 ..	3 18 0	2 2 2	3 17 0	2 1 8	3 17 0	2 1 8
" " 1932 ..	3 12 0	1 18 11	3 13 6	1 19 8	3 18 0	2 2 2
" " 1933 ..	3 8 0	1 16 9	3 9 6	1 17 6	3 17 6	2 1 10
" " 1934 ..	3 9 6	1 17 6	3 10 0	1 17 10	3 19 6	2 2 11
" " 1935 ..	3 10 6	1 18 1	3 11 2	1 18 5	4 4 4	2 5 6
" " 1936 ..	3 10 6	1 18 1	3 11 9	1 18 9	4 6 0	2 6 5
" " 1937 ..	3 13 9	1 19 10	3 14 8	2 0 4	4 7 0	2 7 0
" " 1938 ..	4 0 0	2 3 2	4 1 0	2 3 9	4 13 3	2 10 4
" " 1939 ..	b4 2 2	b2 4 4	4 3 1	2 4 10	b4 16 4	b2 12 0
" " 1940 ..	4 2 8	2 4 8	4 3 3	2 4 11	4 16 3	2 12 0
" " 1941(c) ..	4 8 0	2 7 6	4 9 3	2 8 2	5 3 6	2 15 11
" " 1943 ..	4 19 1	2 13 6	4 18 1	2 13 0	5 5 9	2 17 1
" " 1944 ..	4 19 11	2 13 11	4 19 8	2 13 10	5 7 1	2 17 10
" " 1945 ..	5 0 1	2 14 1	4 19 7	2 13 9	5 7 5	2 18 0
" " 1946 ..	5 1 1	2 14 7	5 0 6	2 14 3	5 9 0	2 18 10
26th Feb., 1947(d) ..	5 7 1	2 17 10	5 6 6	2 17 6	5 15 4	3 2 3
1st July, 1947 ..	5 7 10	2 18 3	5 7 3	2 17 11	5 16 0	3 2 8
" " 1948 ..	5 15 9	3 2 6	5 15 2	3 2 2	6 4 9	3 7 4
" " 1949 ..	6 7 1	3 8 8	6 6 9	3 8 5	6 15 1	3 12 11
" " 1950 ..	7 0 0	3 15 7	6 19 9	3 15 6	7 7 3	3 19 6
18th Dec., 1950(d) ..	8 6 6	4 14 1	8 6 7	4 14 2	8 14 8	4 18 6
1st " 1951(e) ..	..	6 13 8	..	6 13 0	..	6 17 1

(a) Exclude: Goldfields areas, where rates were the same as those operating from 1st July, 1926.

(b) Applicable from 24th April, 1939. (c) Applicable from 28th April, 1941. (d) Special

declarations following basic wage increases granted by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.

(e) Inquiry into female rates only.

The first declaration of the "basic wage" by the Court of Arbitration since the authority to fix one was vested in the Court by the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1925 was made on 11th June, 1926, when the rate for adult male employees was determined at £4 5s. per week, and for adult female employees at £2 5s. 11d. per week. Since that date the principal inquiries have been those of 1938, 1947, 1950 and 1951.

The declaration of 13th June, 1938 (operative from 1st July) was based on the findings of the Royal Commission on the Basic Wage, 1920 (*see* page 55). For this purpose the Court reduced the amount recommended by the Commission for a five-unit family to the equivalent for a four-unit family, and brought the resulting amounts up to their purchasing equivalents at the March quarter, 1938, by means of the separate "group" retail price index numbers in respect of the sections for food, clothing and miscellaneous expenditure, and for rent added an amount which was considered fair under ruling conditions.*

The increased basic wage of 26th February, 1947, was granted after an inquiry† by the Western Australian Court of Arbitration consequent upon the "Interim" Basic Wage Judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in December, 1946 (*see* page 57).

Following the judgment of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the 1949–50 Basic Wage Inquiry (*see* page 58) the Western Australian Court of Arbitration resumed an inquiry which had been adjourned, to ascertain what change should be made in the State basic wage rates. In its judgment of 7th December, 1950‡ the Court decided that the basic wage should be increased by £1 per week for adult males and by 15s. per week for adult females. The rates in the metropolitan area then became £8 6s. 6d. for adult males and £4 14s. 1d. for adult females, operative from 18th December, 1950. In relation to the female rate the unions' claim had been for a basic wage equal to 75 per cent. of the male rate instead of the existing 54 per cent basis. Although this claim was not granted it was intimated that the increase of 15s. should not necessarily be regarded as the Court's final word on the subject.

As the result of a subsequent inquiry§ the basic wage for adult females was increased from 1st December, 1951 to 65 per cent. of the corresponding male rate. This was subject to the condition that the increase in the basic wage should be offset by the reduction in or deletion of existing margins between the basic wage and the total wage as specified by the appropriate award or determination.

The Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced on 12th September, 1953 the discontinuance of quarterly adjustments. Following this decision the Western Australian Court of Arbitration exercised its discretionary power and, after reviewing the quarterly cost of living statements prepared by the Government Statistician for each quarter from September quarter, 1953 to March quarter, 1955, declined to make, where applicable, any adjustment to the basic wage. However, after reviewing the cost of living statement for the quarter ended 30th June, 1955 the Court decided to increase the basic wage for Perth by 5s. 11d. a week for adult males and to make corresponding increases for the other areas in the State. On 2nd November, 1955, the Court announced that there would be no alteration of the existing basic wage, on the grounds that the cost of living index numbers for the quarter ended 30th September, 1955 did not reveal the necessary statutory margin of difference from the previous quarter's figures.

The rates ruling in November, 1955 were £12 12s. 5d. for adult males and £8 4s. 1d. for adult females.

(vi) *Tasmania*.—A State basic wage is not declared in Tasmania. Wages Boards constituted for a number of industries, from representatives of employers and employees and an independent chairman, determine the

* W.A. I.G., Vol. 18, p. 151.
§ W.A. I.G., Vol. 36, p. 497.

† W.A. I.G., Vol. 27, p. 39.

‡ W.A. I.G., Vol. 30, p. 336.

minimum rate of wage payable in each industry. In general these Boards have adopted the basic wages of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in determining the rate of wage to be paid.

The Wages Board Act 1920-1951 gives Wages Boards power to adjust their wage rates with variations in cost of living as indicated by retail price index numbers published by the Commonwealth Statistician. When the Commonwealth Court discontinued the system of automatic adjustments of the basic wage in September, 1953, the Chairman of the Wages Boards stated he was of the opinion that automatic adjustment clauses should be deleted from all Wages Boards determinations. Before Wages Boards met to consider this matter, the wage rates for all determinations were automatically adjusted upwards from the first pay-period commencing in November. By early December, 1953, all Wages Boards had met and deleted the automatic adjustment clause from determinations and cancelled the adjustment increases payable from November.

The rates commonly adopted by Tasmanian Wages Boards in November, 1955 were £12 2s. for adult males and £9 1s. 6d. for adult females. These rates were operative in September, 1953, when the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced its decision to discontinue the system of automatic quarterly adjustments to the basic wage.

(vii) *Rates Prescribed.*—The "basic wage" rates of State industrial tribunals operative in November, 1954 and 1955 are summarized in the following table :—

State Basic Wages : Weekly Rates.

State.	November, 1954.			November, 1955.		
	Date of Operation.	Males.	Females.	Date of Operation.	Males.	Females.
	(a)			(a)		
		s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
New South Wales(b)—						
Metropolitan and Country, excluding Broken Hill	Aug., 1953	243 0	182 0	Nov., 1955	253 0	189 6
Broken Hill	Aug., 1953	247 0	185 0	Nov., 1955	254 0	190 6
Victoria(e)	Nov., 1954	234 0	175 6	Nov., 1955	246 0	184 6
Queensland—						
Southern Division (Eastern District), including Brisbane ..	1.2.54(d)	225 0	151 0	24.10.55	229 0	154 0
Southern Division (Western District)	1.2.54(d)	232 4	154 8	24.10.55	236 4	157 8
Mackay Division	1.2.54(d)	230 6	153 9	24.10.55	234 6	156 9
Northern Division (Eastern District)	1.2.54(d)	235 0	156 0	24.10.55	239 0	159 0
Northern Division (Western District)	1.2.54(d)	242 4	159 8	24.10.55	246 4	162 8
South Australia(e)	Aug., 1953	231 0	173 0	Aug., 1953	231 0	173 0
Western Australia(f)—						
Metropolitan Area	27.7.53	246 6	160 3	9.8.55	252 5	164 1
South-West Land Division ..	27.7.53	246 0	159 11	9.8.55	251 8	163 7
Goldfields and other areas ..	27.7.53	249 4	162 1	9.8.55	254 1	165 2
Tasmania(g)	Aug., 1953	242 0	181 6	Aug., 1953	242 0	181 6

(a) Where dates are not quoted rates operate from beginning of first pay-period commencing in month shown. (b) Automatic adjustments discontinued from August, 1953 until November, 1955 (see page 77). (c) No basic wage declared but rates shown (Melbourne) are those commonly adopted by Wages Boards. The Victorian Labour and Industry Act 1953 requires Wages Boards to provide for the automatic adjustment of wage rates in accordance with variations in retail price index numbers.

(d) Between February, 1954 and August, 1955 the Queensland Industrial Court declined to make any alteration in the basic wage rates consequent on quarterly movements in the "C" series of retail price index numbers. (e) The "living wage" declared for the metropolitan area is also adopted in country areas except at Whyalla where a low 11g of 5s. is generally payable. Automatic adjustments consequent on variations in retail price index numbers have not been made to the living wage since August, 1953 following the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration on 12th September, 1953.

(f) The Western Australian Arbitration Court from July, 1953 to August, 1955 declined to adjust the basic wage in accordance with movements in the cost of living statements supplied by the Government Statistician. (g) None declared but rates shown (Hobart) are those commonly adopted by Wages Boards. From 9th December, 1953, automatic adjustment was discontinued and the adjustment increases of 10s. for males and 7s. 6d. for females payable from early November, 1953 were cancelled.

§ 5. Wage Margins.

On 5th November, 1954 the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration delivered a judgment* which in effect became a general determination of the basis upon which all relevant wage and salary margins should be assessed. This became known as the Metal Trades Case, 1954.

General principles of marginal rate fixation had previously been enunciated by the Court in the Engineers' Case of 1924, the Merchant Service Guild Case of 1942 and the Printing Trades Case of 1947, and the Court adopted these insofar as they were applicable to current circumstances.

"Margins" were defined as—

"Minimum amounts awarded above the basic wage to particular classifications of employees for the features attaching to their work which justify payments above the basic wage, whether those features are the skill or experience required for the performance of that work, its particularly laborious nature, or the disabilities attached to its performance."

A brief account of the Metal Trades Case is as follows :—

The Amalgamated Engineering Union, the Electrical Trades Union and other employee organizations parties to the Metal Trades award, 1952, filed applications during 1953 for increased margins for all workers covered by this award.

The applications came on for hearing before Mr. Conciliation Commissioner Galvin who decided that they raised matters of such importance that, in the public interest, they should be dealt with by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. On 16th September and 6th October, 1953 the Conciliation Commissioner, pursuant to Section 14A of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, referred these applications to the Court.

The actual claims of the trade unions were that the marginal rate of 52s. per week payable to a fitter in the metal trades should be increased to 80s. per week (86s. for certain electrical trades) with proportionate increases for other award occupations. The margins then current, with a few exceptions, had been in existence since 1947. The employees' claims were in the nature of a test case to determine the attitude of the Court to applications for increased margins.

The Metal Trades Employers' Association and other respondents to the Metal Trades award had counter-claimed that existing margins for skilled tradesmen should remain unaltered, while those paid to partly skilled or unskilled workers should be reduced.

The Court decided to take the Commissioner's two references together and the matter came on for hearing before the Full Arbitration Court (Kelly C. J., Kirby, Dunphy and Morgan JJ.) in Melbourne on 13th October, 1953.

In a judgment delivered on 25th February, 1954 the Court held that a *prima facie* case had been made for a re-assessment of margins but that the economic situation at that time, particularly in regard to the level of costs, did not permit of such a comprehensive review. The Court decided that to avoid the creation of new disputes, to save expense and to obviate procedural difficulties, it would not reject the claims but adjourn them until 9th November, 1954.

* Print No. A4009.

On 25th and 26th August, 1954, summonses were filed by the employees' organizations for orders that proceedings in this case be brought forward and the hearing was resumed on 5th October, 1954.

In a judgment delivered on 5th November, 1954 the Court made an order re-assessing the marginal structure in the Metal Trades award by, in general, raising the current amount of margin to two and a half times the amount of the margin that had been current in 1937. However, in cases in which the result of that calculation produced an amount less than the existing margin, the existing margin was to remain unaltered. In effect, this decision increased the margin of a fitter from 52s. per week to 75s. per week, increased similarly margins of other skilled occupations, and made no increase in margins of what may generally be described as the unskilled or only slightly skilled employees under the Metal Trades award.

At the end of its judgment the Court stated that, while its decision in this case related immediately to one particular industry, it was expected to afford general guidance to all authorities operating under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act or under other legislation which provided for tribunals having power to make references, or being subject to appeal, to the Court, where the wage or salary may properly be regarded as containing a margin. The Court added observations for the guidance of these and of other tribunals "which may regard decisions of this Court as of persuasive authority."

In view of the widespread effects of this judgment some extensive extracts from it are given below:—

"Margins are minimum amounts awarded above the basic wage to particular classifications of employees for the features attaching to their work which justify payments above the basic wage, whether those features are the skill or experience required for the performance of that work, its particularly laborious nature, or the disabilities attached to its performance. Furthermore, the assessment of each margin should be made in relation to each other margin, so that the margin awarded to one employee should bear, as far as possible, its proper monetary comparison with that of every other employee awarded a margin, having in mind the various matters which in each case should be weighed in assessing the margin. These observations may appear to be somewhat trite, but we state them because we think that they are often forgotten or overlooked."*

"The first task of the Court in the problem of determining what should be the present assessment or re-assessment of margins in this industry has been to decide what can be regarded—generally speaking—as a sound basis on which to build. Our conclusion on this question is that the proper point for a general approach to this question is the variation order made by Beeby J. on the 23rd February, 1937"

"Since 1937 there have been four major decisions which have increased the margins in this industry; certainly three of these have resulted in distortions of greater or lesser degree of the scheme of margins

* Print No. A4009, p. 22.

† Ibid, p. 23.

assessed by Beeby *J.* in 1937. The distortions to which we refer have resulted in each case in the improvement of the relative marginal position of the unskilled or relatively unskilled employee in comparison with that of the skilled. In two of these cases the major adjustments of margins which were made were the result in part of the agreement of some employers.”*

“The cumulative effect of the distortions resulting from the addition of the loadings in 1941, and of the two variation orders made by Mr. Commissioner Mooney in 1947, can conveniently be seen in the following table which sets out certain selected classifications, some of which have been regarded as “key” classifications in the industry:—

Title of classification.	Margin under 1937 orders.	Margin including “loading” under 1941 order.	Margin including “loading” under first Mooney order of 1947.	Margin including “loading” under second Mooney order of 1947.
Duster	50s.	56s.	65s.	82s. 6d.
Fitter	30s.	36s.	45s.	52s.
Annealer .. .	25s.	29s.	36s.	42s. 6d.
Machinist 2nd class	20s.	24s.	31s.	37s.
Machinist 3rd class	14s.	17s.	22s.	28s.
Process worker ..	8s.	11s.	16s.	22s.
Racksman .. .	4s.	7s.	12s.	18s.
All other labourers	Nil	3s.	3s.	3s.

An examination of this table shows in a somewhat startling way the deterioration of the relative position of the skilled employee’s margin in relation to the margins of the semi-skilled or unskilled.”†

“In our earlier reasons we said:—

‘The Court has in the past rejected the principle that marginal rates should be adjusted, either automatically or from time to time, in accordance with variations in the purchasing power of money. It again rejects this principle.’

“Mr. Eggleston [Counsel for the unions] in discussing that observation during the adjourned hearing remarked that the claim was not now made that the margins should be automatically adjusted on change in the value of money. But the claim now made is that at this ‘time’ such an adjustment should be made, provided that in the view of the Court the economic state of the country can sustain the burden of the adjustment. On the question of the adjustment of margins according to variation in the value of money we do not propose to add anything to what we said earlier, and we again reject the claim that wage justice requires that, even *prima facie*, a margin properly assessed earlier should be adjusted when it comes up for re-assessment by relation to a change in the purchasing power of money.

“In our earlier reasons we said:—

‘The court adopts the general principles of marginal fixation enunciated in the *Engineers Case* of 1924, the *Merchant Service Guild Case* of 1942, and the *Printing Trades Case* of 1947.’

* Print No. A4009, p. 23.

† Ibid., p. 27.

"In the *Printing Trades Case* of 1947, Kelly J. (as he then was), after reviewing earlier decisions of this Court relating to the assessment of margins, including the *Engineers Case* of 1924 and the *Merchant Service Guild Case* of 1942, said :—

'I conclude, therefore, that the following rules should guide me in the review of wage rates sought by the present application :—

1. That it must be put upon the applicant Union to satisfy the Court that material change in circumstances, occurring since the making of the award, has rendered the rates then prescribed as minima no longer just as such.
2. That the standard of justice must be the true value today of the work for which the rates are to be made payable as minima.
3. That the true value is not to be ascertained by reference to high wages being paid on account of accidental and temporary conditions connected with a shortage of labour.
4. That the true value is not to be ascertained by reference to variation in the purchasing power of money since the award was made.
5. That the assessment of the true value must have regard to comparisons of minimum rates payable for work in comparable industries or of comparable occupations.'

"Paragraph 4 of that quotation should be read with a sentence later in the same reasons in which Kelly J., in giving his reasons for assessing the margin of the hand-compositor at a new and higher rate, remarked :—

'Whilst not allowing myself to inform my decision by reference to any proportionate fall in the purchasing power of money since either the 1942 or previous awards were made, I have not forgotten that nominal values of all things, including the nominal value of work, must tend to increase with an increase in the nominal prices of essential commodities.'

"We think that it may be convenient to discuss first the position of the fitter, whom we may take as exemplifying the position of the really skilled employee under this award. (We do not wish it to be thought, however, that in discussing the position of the fitter first we have in any sense looked upon him in isolation from the other classifications in the award. The problem must be considered as a whole and it is desirable for us to mention before we come to the margin of the fitter that we are clearly of opinion that looked at from any point of view—whether from the value of money or otherwise—no case has been made out for any increase in the margins prescribed for what may generally be described as the unskilled or only slightly skilled employees.) We have said that the fitter's margin in 1937 was assessed at 30s. ; it has now reached 52s. Our task is to decide what is 'the true value today of the work' which the fitter does. The fact, of which there is some evidence, that a large body of other employees not in this industry have been awarded increases in margins since 1947 may have seemed to supply some *prima facie* ground for the increase of the fitter's margin, awarded in 1947 by the Full Court, which has not since been increased ; but the evidence on that score is of such a nature that it would provide

but an uncertain foundation upon which to decide that the fitter's margin should be increased by comparison; still less does it point to any particular amount as an appropriate increase. We may mention as one difficulty that we do not know the extent to which the increases in margins in other industries since 1947 were themselves reflections of the increase in the fitter's margin in that year. Indeed, as to the fitter's margin it is generally difficult to re-assess it by relation to the margins of other skilled employees, since the fitter's margin has itself been so often accepted as a key margin for the skilled employee. We mentioned in our earlier reasons that evidence had been tendered as to 'over-award' payments in fact being made in this industry. No further evidence was tendered on this subject and we do not feel able to add anything further to our earlier observations upon it. But our view is that the real mischief which our assessment of the margins in this case is required to cure is that which we believe to exist in the relative position of the margin for the skilled employee in relation to the margin for the unskilled, a state of affairs which we believe is not confined to this industry. In attempting to rectify the relative position of the skilled employee, we cannot overlook the fact that any increase in his margin is likely to have some reflection in the marginal rates of other skilled employees not in this industry. It is particularly because of this fact that in making any increase for the skilled employee we have anxiously considered the state of the economy. Our examination of the economy and our conclusions thereon will be found set out later in these reasons. In attempting to find the true value of the margin for the fitter today, we have not forgotten that the nominal value of his skill must tend to increase with the increase in the nominal prices of essential commodities, a feature which was present in the mind of Kelly J. in the *Printing Trades Case*, as we have indicated. We have concluded that, viewed in the light of present monetary values and in the whole setting of marginal rates, the fitter's margin should now be assessed at 75s. That amount is two and a half times the fitter's 1937 margin. It has not been calculated by adjusting the 30s. margin to any change in the value of money since 1937. But for the benefit of those interested in such comparisons we may mention that the Commonwealth Statistician's "C" series index number for the six capital cities for the December quarter 1936, that available at the time when Beeby J. made his variation order on the 23rd February, 1937, was 862; the comparable number for the September quarter 1954 was 2321; the last-mentioned number is a little more than two and two-thirds times the first. It may be seen therefore that an award of 75s. per week as the margin for the fitter gives him now only a little below the same purchasing value as his 1937 margin gave if measured by the "C" series index. On this aspect of the matter we may quote the following passage from our earlier reasons in these matters:—

'It is apposite to mention here the many benefits which all or many employees covered by the awards of this Court have received at the instance of the unions since the termination of hostilities in the second world war. These have included the increase in the real value of the basic wage, the extension of paid annual leave, the reduction of the standard ordinary working week from forty-four hours to forty, the increase in so-called "penalty" rates for work performed at the week-end and, speaking generally, the large increases in margins for work

which is unskilled or which requires little skill or experience. All of these things not inconsiderably supplemented by over-award payments gained in most cases by the intervention of the unions have, in our opinion, substantially increased wage costs and have thereby contributed to the fall in the value of money on which the claim of the unions for the increase in margins very largely rests in these proceedings.'

"We then proceeded to state that the 'really skilled employee has shared most of these improvements.' In the light of all these circumstances it cannot be regarded as unjust that the really skilled employee's new margin should happen to fall somewhat short in purchasing-power of the margin which was assessed for him in 1937, which we have regarded as a proper 'datum point'."*

"If the margins of the eight classifications set out in the table which earlier appears in these reasons are each multiplied by two and a half, the result is as follows (we include for purposes of comparison the present margin):—

—	1937 margin.	Present margin.	1937 margin multiplied by two and a half.
Duster	50s.	82s. 6d.	125s.
Fitter	30s.	52s.	75s.
Annealer	25s.	42s. 6d.	62s. 6d.
Machinist 2nd class ..	20s.	37s.	50s.
Machinist 3rd class ..	14s.	28s.	35s.
Process worker	8s.	22s.	20s.
Racksman	4s.	18s.	10s.
All other labourers ..	Nil	3s.	Nil
		during first three months in metal trades industry, thereafter 9s.	

"It will be seen that as regards the three lowest paid classifications set out in the above table, the multiplication of the 1937 margin by two and a half would produce a result which if awarded would result in a reduction of the present margins. This would seem at first sight logical for complete consistency, but after consideration we have come to the conclusion that we should not reduce any margins simply because they do not accord with the scheme of re-assessment of the higher margins by relation to those prescribed in 1937. It is difficult, perhaps in some cases impossible, to ignore past history in dispensing industrial justice. We do not think that we should ignore, or that we should now attempt wholly to correct, the tendency which has been wide spread during and since the recent war to award relatively higher margins to employees with less claims to marginal payments than to those in the upper marginal brackets. Moreover, our assessment of the new margin for the fitter as 75s. per week is, as we have indicated, to a large extent affected by the result of that and other trends.

"As a general rule, therefore, our new assessment of the margins in this industry is to increase the 1937 margins by two and a half. But in cases in which the result of that calculation produces an amount less than the existing margin, the existing margin remains unaltered.

"To this general approach there are, however, some exceptions."†

* Print No. A4009, pp. 28-31.

† Ibid., p. 31.

The Court instanced new classifications inserted since 1937 and margins re-assessed since 1937.

The judgment then proceeded to examine the statistical evidence adduced in relation to the "indicators" of the condition of the economy and concluded :—

"We can do no more than to reach our conclusions in accordance with the general picture as we see it, after pondering to the best of our ability, in the absence of any conclusive evidence being available of the bounds of economic capacity, those aspects of economic capacity of which we have some evidence.

"In fine, we are satisfied that, subject to economic considerations, the adjustments in favour of the more skilled employees' minimum rates, now to be made, ought to be made in accordance with principles of wage-justice. Then, having examined the material at hand, we have come to the conclusion that the economy can support what we have proposed.

"The variations to be made are, of course, of the minimum rates prescribed by the award. Where wages are in fact being paid at higher amounts than the minimum rates which we now prescribe, the order will be understood to be not applicable, that is to say, not effective to increase such over-award payments.

"In the statement published in February the Court endeavoured to make it clear that its judgment was 'not to be read as being determinative, except within the bounds of necessary inference, of matters in the lists of the Court relating to claims and counter-claims concerning the minimum rates of payment which should be fixed for other classes or types of employment than those to which the present references relate.' 'Insofar, however, as it deals with the claim for a general adjustment of marginal rates in accordance alone with variation of the purchasing power of money,' so proceeded the statement, 'what is said here must be understood as being necessarily applicable to all similar claims or submissions.' Nevertheless, it is proper, we think, again to emphasise that the decision we are now making deals only with the particular industry with which the references made by the Conciliation Commissioner are concerned. At the same time, we desire to state that what the Court now decides is expected by it to afford general guidance to all authorities operating under the *Conciliation and Arbitration Act*, or under other legislation which provides for a wage-or salary-fixing tribunal having power to make references, or being subject to an appeal, to this Court, where the wage or salary may properly be regarded as containing a margin. It is desirable that we should attempt to say a little for the guidance of those authorities and perhaps also of other industrial tribunals which may regard decisions of this Court as of persuasive authority. The matter is of particular importance since we are aware not only that our decision in this case establishes a new and higher standard of margins for skilled employees covered by the Metal Trades award, but also that successive awards in this industry have in the past been regarded as guides for margins in a number of other awards. It is unwise for us to attempt to be too specific, in particular since, as we said in our reasons delivered in these references in February last, 'every claim for an increase in award rates of a marginal nature should be considered in the light of the history of the margin concerned.'

"It must be emphasised that our main purpose in prescribing new and higher margins for the skilled employees in this award has been to restore to some extent their marginal status in relation to the unskilled, and it is obvious that to give the same proportionate increase of existing margins to the unskilled as to the skilled would, generally speaking, destroy that purpose. In cases of awards in which the general marginal pattern has in the past followed that of the Metal Trades award, it would seem that no particular difficulty should be found; in those cases it may be regarded as proper to prescribe a new marginal structure which will accord, *mutatis mutandis*, with the Court's new marginal structure in the Metal Trades award. But in other cases, speaking very generally, the matter may be approached in the following manner. Margins prescribed in 1937, or shortly thereafter, since in some cases the reflection of the increase in 1937 in the Metal Trades award margins may have occurred later, could be multiplied by two and a half; if the result of the calculation is more than the present margin there would seem *prima facie* ground for its increase to that result; if not, *prima facie* there would seem to be no ground. But we emphasise that there may be exceptions to this general approach, particularly in cases of new classifications, or in cases where some change in the nature of the work done, or of the disabilities suffered by a particular class of employees has required a new assessment of margins since 1937 or thereabouts. The margins for such employees must be fitted into their appropriate places in the new scale."*

§ 6. Child Endowment in Australia.

The Commonwealth Government, in June, 1927, called a conference at Melbourne of the Premiers of the several States to consider the question of child endowment from a national standpoint. The Prime Minister submitted various estimates of the cost of endowing dependent children under fourteen years of age in Australia at 5s. per week. After discussion, it was decided to refer the matter to a Royal Commission to be appointed by the Commonwealth Government.

The Commission submitted its report on 15th December, 1928. It was not unanimous in its findings, and the opinions and recommendations of the members were embodied in two separate reports, which dealt exhaustively with the constitutional aspects, existing systems, industrial legislation, the basic wage, standard of living, regulation of wages, working conditions and cognate matters.

The findings and recommendations in the *majority* and *minority* reports were given in Labour Report No. 19.

At the conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers held at Canberra in May, 1929, the Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth Government was not prepared to adopt a scheme financed entirely from the proceeds of taxation, as had been recommended in the minority report. The Commonwealth Government agreed with the majority of the Commission that child endowment could not be separated from the control of the basic wage—a power which the Commonwealth did not possess and which the States were not prepared to relinquish. The Government, therefore, did not propose to establish any system of child endowment.

It was generally agreed that any scheme which would increase the charges upon industry would be unwise at that particular time. The matter of child endowment was accordingly left to be dealt with as the State Governments should think proper.

Early in 1941, the Commonwealth Government announced its intention to introduce a scheme of child endowment throughout Australia. The necessary legislation* was passed and the scheme came into operation from 1st July, 1941. As amended to November, 1955 its main features are as follows :—

Any person who is a resident of Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child.

From 20th June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been—

- (a) where the endowee has one child only, 5s. per week ;
- (b) where the endowee has two or more children—in respect of the elder or eldest child, 5s. per week and in respect of each other child, 10s. per week ;
- (c) in the case of the endowee being an approved institution the rate is 10s. per week for each child inmate.

There are provisions to cover cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, death of a parent or other circumstances. In such cases payment may be made to the father, mother or other person.

A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born here.

There is a twelve months residential requirement for claimants and children who were not born in Australia, but this is waived if the claimant and the child are likely to remain permanently in Australia.

Endowment will be paid for the children of members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian Forces from the time of the arrival of the children in Australia.

From 1st July, 1941 when the scheme was introduced the rate of endowment was 5s. per week for each child in excess of one in a family and for each child under 16 years in an approved institution, the rate being increased to 7s. 6d. per week from 26th June, 1945, and to 10s. per week from 9th November, 1948. There is no means test.

Endowment in respect of the first child under 16 years in a family was first provided for by an amendment of the legislation in June, 1950.

Consequent upon the operation of the Commonwealth Child Endowment Scheme, appropriate steps were taken for the termination of existing schemes operating in New South Wales and the Commonwealth Public Service. The New South Wales system of child endowment was in operation from July, 1927 to July, 1941, and the Commonwealth Public Service system operated from November, 1920 until July, 1941. Details of these schemes appeared in earlier issues of the Labour Report (*see* No. 36, page 103).

* Act No. 8, 1941 (Child Endowment Act) as amended by No. 5, 1942 and Nos. 10 and 41, 1945 (now Part VI. of the Social Services Act 1947-1955).

A summary of the operations of this scheme during each of the years 1950-51 to 1954-55 is given below :—

Child Endowment : Australia.

Year.	Endowed Families at 30th June.		Approved Institutions.		Total Number of Endowed Children.
	Number of Claims in Force.	Number of Endowed Children.	Number of Institutions.	Number of Endowed Children.	
1950-51 ..	1,150,847	2,365,177	370	23,753	2,388,930
1951-52 ..	1,205,421	2,493,246	379	24,623	2,517,869
1952-53 ..	1,246,986	2,599,026	376	24,951	2,623,977
1953-54 ..	1,280,439	2,689,577	387	27,397	2,716,974
1954-55 ..	1,304,227	2,764,167	392	24,394	2,788,561

Year.	Amount Paid to Endowees and Approved Institutions.	Annual Liability for Endowment at 30th June.	Average Annual Rate of Endowment per Endowed Family at 30th June.	Average Number of Endowed Children per Endowed Family at 30th June.	Number of Endowed Children in each 10,000 of Population.
	£	£	£		
1950-51 ..	43,584,614	47,151,169	40.434	2.055	2,837
1951-52 ..	46,625,052	49,794,121	40.777	2.068	2,915
1952-53 ..	53,243,722	52,012,584	41.190	2.084	2,977
1953-54 ..	50,760,799	53,995,617	41.613	2.101	3,023
1954-55 ..	52,529,902	55,547,635	42.104	2.119	3,031

CHAPTER IV.—EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

§ 1. Employment.

1. **General.**—Data on which this section is based are divided into two main categories: (a) Censuses, 1933 and 1947, and quasi-Censuses; and (b) monthly returns for Pay-roll Tax purposes, supplemented by regular collections of Government employment.

The first quasi-Census was the National Register, July, 1939. It covered males aged 18-64 years and, supplemented by other data, provided estimates for July, 1939. The Civilian Register, June, 1943, and Occupation Survey, June, 1945, covered civilians aged 14 years and over and were supplemented by records of the Defence Forces. Pay-roll Tax returns first became available in July, 1941.

When this section was sent for press, the 1954 Census figures were not available in the detail required for the revision of the tables in para. 2 below.

2. **Total Occupied Persons.**—(i) *Australia.*—The estimates in the table below are divided into three categories: (a) defence forces; (b) all persons fully occupied as employers, or self-employed in businesses or on farms; and (c) wage or salary earners fully employed, or occupied as casual, part-time, intermittent or seasonal wage earners. Unemployed wage earners are excluded.

Male unpaid "helpers" in rural industry, who numbered about 35,000 in June, 1933, and about 21,000 in June, 1947, have been included with employers and self-employed persons, as it is considered that the majority of these are sons or other close relatives of farmers working in an unofficial partnership or as learners with the farm owner. Unpaid "helpers" in other industries, who numbered about 6,000 males and 4,000 females in June, 1933, have been included with wage and salary earners. Unpaid female "helpers" on farms are very numerous, some 22,000 being shown on Agricultural and Pastoral Statistics returns for March, 1947. Generally they are occupied mainly in home duties. All women occupied in unpaid home duties have been excluded from the category of occupied persons.

Statistics of net enlistments in the defence forces shown in the table below represent total enlistments for full-time duty less deaths and discharges. Prior to December, 1941, men in certain age groups were called up for short training courses but these men are excluded from the figures. In July, 1941, the number of such men was approximately 50,000.

Total Occupied Persons : Australia.
(‘000.)

Year and Month.	Defence Forces (Net Enlistments). (a)	Employers and Self-employed Persons.			Wage and Salary Earners.			Total Occupied Civilians.	Total Occupied Persons including Forces. (a)
		Rural Industry.	Other Industries.	Total.	Rural Industry.	Other Industries.	Total.		
MALES.									
1933—June..	5.8	292.4	248.3	540.7	200.0	992.0	1192.0	1732.7	1738.5
1939—July..	12.9	300.0	299.0	599.0	202.0	1293.1	1495.1	2094.1	2107.0
1941—July..	6282.8	284.0	208.0	492.0	188.0	1363.4	1551.4	2043.4	2326.2
1943—June..	685.0	262.0	150.0	412.0	120.9	1273.2	1394.1	1806.1	2491.1
1945—June(c)	603.5	287.5	187.1	474.6	130.2	1294.2	1424.4	1899.0	2502.5
1947—June..	53.2	278.0	286.8	565.7	148.2	1669.4	1797.6	2236.3	2416.5

For footnotes see following page.

Total Occupied Persons : Australia—continued.
(’000.)

Year and Month.	Defence Forces (Net Enlistments). (a)	Employers and Self-employed Persons.			Wage and Salary Earners.			Total Occupied Civilians.	Total Occupied Persons including Forces. (a)
		Rural Indus-try.	Other Indus-tries.	Total.	Rural Indus-try.	Other Indus-tries.	Total.		
FEMALES.									
						(e)			
1933—June..	..	15.1	56.2	71.3	4.4	447.5	451.9	523.2	523.2
1939—July..	..	16.0	62.0	78.0	4.0	561.6	565.6	643.6	643.6
1941—July..	1.8	14.0	56.8	70.8	6.0	656.2	662.2	733.0	734.8
1943—June..	44.0	11.7	34.4	46.1	28.1	682.1	710.2	756.3	800.3
1945—June(e)	45.4	17.0	43.1	60.1	23.0	667.1	690.1	750.2	795.6
1947—June..	0.8	13.8	55.8	69.6	8.1	d659.9	d668.0	d737.6	d738.4
PERSONS.									
1933—June..	5.8	307.5	304.5	612.0	204.4	1439.5	1643.9	2255.9	2261.7
1939—July..	12.9	316.0	361.0	677.0	206.0	1854.7	2060.7	2737.7	2750.6
1941—July..	b284.6	298.0	264.8	562.8	194.0	2019.6	2213.6	2776.4	3061.0
1943—June..	729.0	273.7	181.4	455.1	149.0	1955.3	2104.3	2562.4	3291.4
1945—June(e)	648.9	304.5	230.2	534.7	153.2	1991.3	2114.5	2649.2	3298.1
1947—June..	54.0	292.7	342.6	635.3	156.3	d2309.3	d2455.6	d3100.9	d3154.9

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia. (b) Excludes approximately 50,000 men called up for short training courses. (c) 1st June, 1945 (Occupation Survey). (d) Preliminary estimate, subject to revision. (e) Includes females, in thousands, in private domestic service as follows:—106.7 in June, 1933; 124.5 in July, 1939; 100.0 in July, 1941; 41.5 in June, 1943; 47.6 in June, 1945; 40.3 in June, 1947.

The numbers of persons in the defence forces in June, 1947 shown in the foregoing table include those serving outside Australia who were omitted from the Census taken in that month. The numbers of employers and self-employed persons and wage and salary earners in rural industry are in accordance with the final results of the Census. Estimates, based on Pay-roll Tax returns, etc., are shown in the table above for wage and salary earners employed in industries other than rural. The estimate of 659,900 female wage and salary earners employed in non-rural industries includes 40,300 private domestics (the figure from the June, 1947, Census). The remaining 619,600 females in the estimate include females working part-time. The 1947 Census figure for the same industries (i.e., excluding rural and private domestic) was 579,200. Persons working regularly but for considerably less than normal working hours were instructed on the Census Schedule to exclude themselves from the work force, unless their earnings from such work formed their principal means of livelihood.

From June, 1933 to July, 1939 the number of occupied persons of both sexes increased by 488,900, owing to the increase of 223,700 in the number of persons available and offering for gainful occupation and to the decrease of 265,200 in the number unemployed from 563,200 to 298,000.

During the war years from July, 1939 to June, 1943 the total labour force increased by 268,600. The defence forces absorbed 716,000 drawn from the following sources:—

- (a) Net decrease in number of occupied civilians—175,000;
- (b) Decrease in unemployment—272,000;
- (c) Net expansion of total labour force—269,000.

Based on the pre-war trends, it was estimated that item (c) above included about 180,000 persons whose entry into the labour force could be attributed solely to war-time conditions.

The total labour force expanded by 37,000 between June, 1943 and June, 1945, the numbers of males and females both increasing. During 1945-46 and 1946-47, as demobilization of the defence forces progressed, there was

a rapid increase in the number of occupied civilians, but the effective labour force is estimated to have decreased by 105,200 (males 51,800; females, 53,400). The decrease was mainly the result of two factors—firstly, retirement of some persons who entered the defence forces or civilian employment solely on account of war conditions and who normally would not have sought gainful employment; secondly, entry of ex-service personnel into full-time training courses.

From July, 1939 to June, 1943 the number of persons occupied in rural industry declined from 522,000 to 422,700 but recovered to about 449,000 in June, 1947.

The numbers occupied in industries other than rural were 2,215,700 in July, 1939; 2,139,700 in June, 1943; 2,191,500 in June, 1945; and 2,651,900 in June, 1947. Employers and self-employed persons in these industries decreased from 361,000 in July, 1939, to 184,400 in June, 1943, partly as a result of enlistments in the defence forces but chiefly as a result of changing to wage or salary earning. By June, 1947, employers and self-employed persons had increased to 342,600.

(ii) *States*.—The following table shows total occupied males and females in each State in July, 1939 and June, 1947, divided into defence forces, employers and self-employed persons and wage and salary earners.

Total Occupied Persons : States.

('000.)

State.	Defence Forces (Net Enlistments) (a)		Employers and Self-employed Persons.		Wage and Salary Earners.		Total Occupied Persons including Forces.	
	July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947.	July, 1939.	June, 1947. (b)	July, 1939.	June, 1947. (b)
MALES.								
New South Wales ..	4.9	23.1	216.2	197.5	596.2	723.6	817.3	944.2
Victoria ..	4.4	15.9	162.9	158.1	399.5	480.9	566.8	654.9
Queensland ..	1.0	5.9	95.1	96.9	218.6	255.4	314.7	358.2
South Australia ..	1.1	2.6	54.6	51.8	127.7	154.4	183.4	208.8
Western Australia ..	1.0	3.4	47.4	39.8	99.7	115.6	148.1	158.8
Tasmania ..	0.5	0.8	21.5	20.1	46.9	58.1	68.9	79.0
FEMALES.								
New South Wales ..	..	0.3	28.4	25.4	220.8	268.8	249.2	294.5
Victoria ..	..	0.4	25.5	22.4	175.3	203.4	200.8	226.2
Queensland ..	..	0.1	11.1	10.2	71.2	83.2	82.3	93.5
South Australia ..	..	..	6.0	5.2	47.4	52.9	53.4	58.1
Western Australia ..	..	..	4.8	4.3	33.2	38.4	38.0	42.7
Tasmania ..	..	..	2.2	1.9	16.3	19.0	18.5	20.9
PERSONS.								
New South Wales ..	4.9	23.4	244.6	222.9	817.0	992.4	1066.5	1,238.7
Victoria ..	4.4	16.3	188.4	180.5	574.8	684.3	767.6	881.1
Queensland ..	1.0	6.0	106.2	107.1	289.8	338.6	397.0	451.7
South Australia ..	1.1	2.6	60.6	57.0	175.1	207.3	236.8	266.9
Western Australia ..	1.0	3.4	52.2	44.1	132.9	154.0	186.1	201.5
Tasmania ..	0.5	0.8	23.7	22.0	63.2	77.1	87.4	99.9

(a) Includes those serving outside Australia.

(b) Preliminary figures, subject to revision.

Between July, 1939 and June, 1947, the occupied population of Australia (including defence forces but excluding unemployed, pensioners, retired, persons of independent means and dependants) increased by

approximately 14.7 per cent. The percentage increase in each State was as follows: New South Wales, 16.1; Victoria, 14.8; Queensland, 13.8; South Australia, 12.7; Western Australia, 8.3; Tasmania, 14.3.

3. Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment.—(i) *Australia: Industrial Groups.*—Estimates are made monthly of wage and salary earners in employment (excluding employees in rural industry and female domestics in private homes), based on Pay-roll Tax returns and returns of Government employment. Pay-roll Tax returns cover only a small proportion of wage earners on rural holdings, and practically no private domestic servants. It is not possible to obtain actual numbers of farm employees and private domestic servants except when a Census or quasi-Census such as the Occupation Survey (1st June, 1945) is taken, but estimates have been made from time to time using available data. The next table shows the trend in that section of wage and salary earning employment which it is possible to estimate monthly. Figures given as at July, 1939 are based on the National Register. From July, 1941 (commencement of Pay-roll Tax returns), the estimates are available for each month, and the table shows the level in June of the years 1951 to 1955. (Current figures are published in the *Monthly Bulletin of Employment Statistics*).

The table shows total male and female wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding employees in rural industry, female private domestics, persons on the paid strength of the defence forces and National Service trainees in camp) subdivided to show the extent of employment provided by Governmental authorities and by private employers respectively. Principal industrial groups shown in the table include both private employees and Governmental employees, if any. The manufacturing employment figures in this table are not comparable as to either absolute level or trend with those shown on pages 103 and 104 below.

Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment : Industrial Groups, Australia.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Industrial Group.	July, 1939.	June, 1951. (a)	June, 1952. (a)	June, 1953. (a)	June, 1954. (a)	June, 1955. (a)
MALES.						
Mining and Quarrying	52.2	55.8	58.8	58.0	58.7	58.3
Manufacturing, etc.(b)	456.1	733.0	721.4	726.4	756.8	777.2
Building and Construction ..	149.7	212.7	214.0	193.2	205.7	211.8
Rail and Air Transport	73.0	100.9	106.9	104.9	106.3	108.5
Other Transport and Communication	112.9	193.8	193.0	190.2	193.8	200.2
Retail Trade	259.7	129.7	124.8	125.0	128.4	129.2
Other Commerce and Finance ..		188.4	191.2	191.0	198.3	207.1
Health	17.8	24.8	25.3	25.5	25.9	26.0
Education	22.1	31.9	33.2	35.4	36.7	38.7
Entertainment, Sport and Recreation	17.4	18.0	18.1	18.2	18.3	18.5
Personal Services	37.0	54.6	53.2	51.6	52.1	54.3
Other	95.2	167.9	168.2	167.4	167.4	170.7
Total	1,293.1	1,911.5	1,908.1	1,886.8	1,948.4	2,000.5
Governmental (c)	349.8	571.2	578.4	567.8	581.4	599.1
Private Employers	943.3	1,340.3	1,329.7	1,319.0	1,367.0	1,401.4
Total	1,293.1	1,911.5	1,908.1	1,886.8	1,948.4	2,000.5

For footnotes see following page.

Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment : Industrial Groups, Australia—continued.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestics in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Industrial Group.	July, 1939.	June, 1951. (a)	June, 1952. (a)	June, 1953. (a)	June, 1954. (a)	June, 1955. (a)
FEMALES.						
Mining and Quarrying	0.3	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1
Manufacturing, etc.(b)	169.0	241.1	206.3	209.8	226.8	232.5
Building and Construction	1.2	3.8	4.2	4.3	4.7	4.9
Rail and Air Transport	2.5	8.2	8.6	7.7	8.0	8.4
Other Transport and Communication	10.1	31.9	30.9	28.5	28.5	30.0
Retail Trade	114.9	119.1	112.6	109.9	115.3	121.6
Other Commerce and Finance		71.3	72.9	71.5	77.0	83.1
Health	34.0	67.4	68.7	68.8	70.8	73.5
Education	32.0	39.7	41.8	43.3	44.9	47.9
Entertainment, Sport and Recreation	4.0	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.8
Personal Services	43.0	72.1	68.9	65.8	67.0	69.6
Other.. .. .	26.1	54.7	55.0	54.5	54.9	57.1
Total	437.1	718.8	679.4	673.7	707.5	738.5
Governmental (c)	55.2	113.9	115.3	112.0	114.5	122.8
Private Employers	381.9	604.9	564.1	561.7	593.0	615.7
Total	437.1	718.8	679.4	673.7	707.5	738.5
PERSONS.						
Mining and Quarrying	52.5	56.6	59.7	58.9	59.7	59.4
Manufacturing, etc.(b)	625.1	974.1	927.7	936.2	983.6	1,009.7
Building and Construction	150.9	216.5	218.2	197.5	210.4	216.7
Rail and Air Transport	75.5	109.1	115.5	112.6	114.3	116.9
Other Transport and Communication	123.0	225.7	223.9	218.7	222.3	230.2
Retail Trade	374.6	248.8	237.4	234.9	243.7	250.8
Other Commerce and Finance		259.7	264.1	262.5	275.3	290.2
Health	51.8	92.2	94.0	94.3	96.7	99.5
Education	54.1	71.6	75.0	78.7	81.6	86.6
Entertainment, Sport and Recreation	21.4	26.7	26.7	26.9	26.9	27.3
Personal Services	80.0	126.7	122.1	117.4	119.1	123.9
Other.. .. .	121.3	222.6	223.2	221.9	222.3	227.8
Total	1,730.2	2,630.3	2,587.5	2,560.5	2,655.9	2,739.0
Governmental(c)	405.0	685.1	693.7	679.8	695.9	721.9
Private Employers	1,325.2	1,945.2	1,893.8	1,880.7	1,960.0	2,017.1
Total	1,730.2	2,630.3	2,587.5	2,560.5	2,655.9	2,739.0

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Estimates (subject to revision) based on Pay-roll Tax returns, etc., of employees engaged predominantly in secondary production. The figures include a considerable number of employees outside the scope of the factory employment figures as defined and published on pages 103 and 104. (c) Includes employees of Commonwealth, State and Semi-Government and Local Government Authorities. For further details see page 105.

During the year ended June, 1955 the total increase in the numbers of wage and salary earners in civilian employment (excluding wage earners in rural industry, females in private domestic service and personnel in defence forces) was 83,100 (males 52,100; females 31,000). Employees of Governmental authorities increased by 26,000 (males 17,700; females 8,300) and those employed by private employers increased by 57,100 (males 34,400; females 22,700).

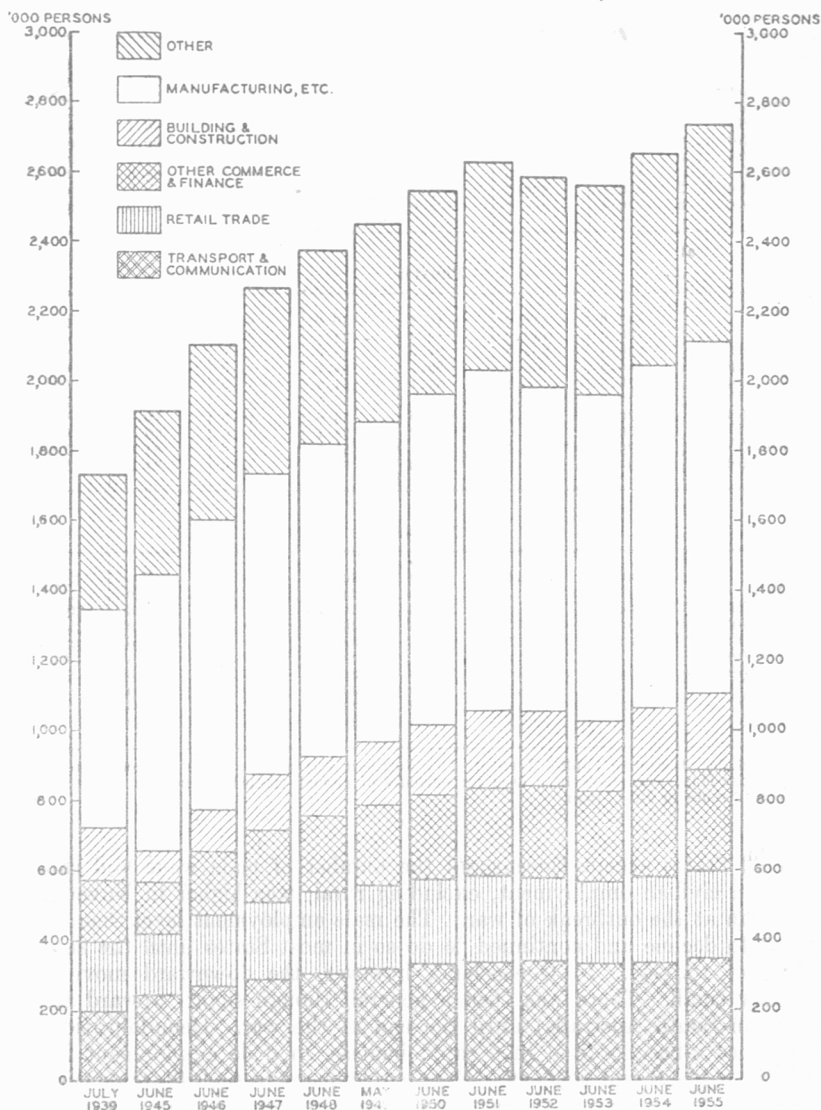
During this period employment increased in most industrial groups, the following being the more important—Manufacturing 26,100, Retail Trade 7,100, Other Commerce and Finance 14,900, Building and Construction 6,300, and Education 5,000.

(ii) *States*.—Statistics of total employment of wage and salary earners (excluding rural and female private domestic employment and defence forces) since 1933 are shown for each State in the next table.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT: AUSTRALIA 1939 AND 1945 TO 1955

BY MAIN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS

(EXCLUDING RURAL AND PRIVATE DOMESTIC WORKERS)



Wage and Salary Earners in Civilian Employment : States.

(Excluding Rural Wage Earners, Female Domestic in Private Homes, Persons on Paid Strength of Defence Forces and National Service Trainees in Camp.)

('000.)

Year and Month.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia (a)
MALES.							
1933—June ..	380.6	288.6	139.8	80.5	70.1	29.0	992.0
1939—July ..	529.0	357.5	172.8	106.7	82.9	37.4	1293.1
1941—November	556.8	405.1	167.9	121.9	83.2	39.4	1381.4
1949—May(b)(c)	721.4	489.3	239.8	155.0	112.8	57.4	1787.1
1950—June(b) ..	740.8	510.7	250.4	165.7	120.5	58.4	1858.7
1951—June(b) ..	758.2	525.8	259.3	170.0	125.3	60.2	1911.5
1952—June(b) ..	754.4	524.4	258.1	171.5	126.0	61.0	1908.1
1953—June(b) ..	734.3	521.6	255.2	170.6	130.2	61.8	1886.8
1954—June(b) ..	758.1	539.7	263.7	176.0	135.0	62.8	1948.4
1955—June(b) ..	779.2	556.7	272.0	178.7	136.4	64.0	2000.5
FEMALES.							
1933—June ..	125.8	118.2	40.5	26.0	20.6	9.1	340.8
1939—July ..	168.0	142.9	53.2	34.0	26.2	11.6	437.1
1941—November	229.3	192.8	62.6	45.6	32.6	15.2	579.8
1949—May(b)(c)	269.9	202.5	80.1	52.2	37.8	18.8	664.1
1950—June(b) ..	278.5	210.0	83.1	54.3	39.9	19.4	688.2
1951—June(b) ..	290.9	219.6	86.1	57.0	41.6	20.3	718.8
1952—June(b) ..	270.5	206.6	83.8	54.9	40.5	19.8	679.4
1953—June(b) ..	266.2	205.9	83.7	53.4	41.0	20.1	673.7
1954—June(b) ..	279.5	217.7	86.1	56.9	42.8	21.0	707.5
1955—June(b) ..	292.5	227.0	89.3	60.2	43.9	21.7	738.5
PERSONS.							
1933—June ..	506.4	406.8	180.3	106.5	90.7	38.1	1332.8
1939—July ..	697.9	500.4	226.0	140.7	109.1	49.0	1730.2
1941—November	786.1	597.9	230.5	167.5	115.8	54.6	1961.2
1949—May(b)(c)	991.3	691.8	319.9	207.2	150.6	76.2	2451.2
1950—June(b) ..	1019.3	720.7	333.5	220.0	160.4	77.8	2546.9
1951—June(b) ..	1049.1	745.4	345.4	227.0	166.9	80.5	2630.3
1952—June(b) ..	1024.9	731.0	341.9	226.4	166.5	80.8	2587.5
1953—June(b) ..	1000.5	727.5	338.9	224.0	171.2	81.9	2560.5
1954—June(b) ..	1037.6	757.4	349.8	232.9	177.8	83.8	2655.9
1955—June(b) ..	1071.7	785.7	361.3	238.9	180.3	85.7	2739.0

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory.

(b) Subject to revision.

(c) Figures for May, 1949, have been used for purposes of annual comparison because of the effects of the coal dispute in June, 1949.

In all States except Queensland the number of male wage and salary earners in civilian employment, excluding rural, was higher in November, 1941, than at the outbreak of war. The male employment level then commenced to decline and continued to do so in most States until the second quarter of 1943-44. In Queensland, however, the downward movement was very small. There was then a general, though slight, upward trend (except in South Australia) until the end of the war. Demobilization of the defence forces resulted in a rapid increase in male employment in all States in 1945-46 and 1946-47. Male employment in each State continued to increase during each of the next four years, reaching a peak of 1,923,700 in March, 1952. During 1952-53, however, the numbers employed fell continuously to 1,857,800 in January, 1953. From February, 1953, male employment rose steadily and in March, 1954, the previous peak was passed. By June 1955, a record level of 2,000,500 had been reached.

After the outbreak of war, female civilian wage and salary earners (excluding rural workers and domestics in private homes) increased rapidly in all States. The peak level during the war (646,000) was reached in December, 1943. From June to December, 1943 there was only a slight total increase. Victoria and South Australia had already passed their respective peaks of female employment. In January, 1946 female employment reached its lowest level (588,400) since January, 1942, having declined in all States after the end of the war, particularly in Victoria and South Australia. From January, 1946 female employment increased in all States and in May, 1949 had passed the war-time peak. The initial post-war peak of 724,000 recorded in November, 1951 was followed by a steady decline to 664,200 in January, 1953. Recovery was slow in the first half of 1953, but there has since been a steady increase in the estimated number of females in employment. A new peak of 738,500 was reached in June, 1955.

(iii) *Factories.*—In the following table is shown the mid-year number of employees in the main factory classes in each of the years 1951 to 1954 compared with 1939. The figures refer to the reported employment in factories as defined for the purposes of the annual production census, results of which are published annually in the *Secondary Industries Bulletin*. In this connexion a factory is defined as an industrial establishment in which four or more persons are employed, or in which power other than manual is used. The employees covered are those engaged in manufacturing activities and exclude working proprietors and those engaged in selling and distribution, etc.

Employment in Factories according to Main Classes : Australia.
(’000.)

Class of Factory.	Number of Employees in June—				
	1939.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
MALES.					
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	9.8	17.1	17.6	17.0	18.0
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	14.3	18.9	18.5	18.7	19.9
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	14.6	27.9	28.2	27.7	29.1
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	161.6	330.3	337.2	337.6	361.3
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	2.8	4.6	3.8	4.0	4.8
Textiles (including knitted goods)	18.3	30.6	23.9	28.3	30.4
Skins and Leather	8.0	11.1	10.1	10.9	11.4
Clothing (including shoes)	19.1	30.3	27.1	28.3	34.0
Food, Drink and Tobacco	57.6	87.9	85.7	85.8	93.0
Sawmilling and Woodworking	27.5	50.9	50.9	50.5	56.3
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	11.2	18.0	15.7	15.7	17.7
Paper, Printing, etc.	26.7	39.1	39.3	38.4	41.4
Rubber	4.9	10.7	10.6	10.6	11.7
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manufactures	5.4	13.2	11.5	12.9	14.1
Heat, Light and Power	9.2	13.9	14.8	15.1	15.4
Total	391.0	704.5	694.9	701.5	758.5

Employment in Factories according to Main Classes : Australia—continued.
(1966.)

Class of Factory.	Number of Employees in June—				
	1939.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.

FEMALES.					
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	0.8	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.8
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	5.7	9.2	8.5	8.2	8.9
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	9.4	39.1	34.6	32.8	36.4
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	0.5	1.2	0.9	1.1	1.2
Textiles (including knitted goods)	27.2	38.8	30.1	36.8	39.1
Skins and Leather	2.5	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.3
Clothing (including shoes)	61.3	87.7	71.7	73.1	78.5
Food, Drink and Tobacco	20.9	31.0	28.6	25.6	30.1
Sawmilling and Woodworking	0.9	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.6
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	2.7	3.5	2.9	3.1	3.3
Paper, Printing, etc.	11.6	15.3	14.3	13.5	14.7
Rubber	2.3	3.0	2.4	3.0	3.3
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manufactures	2.4	7.0	5.5	6.5	7.0
Heat, Light and Power	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	148.6	244.3	207.1	211.6	231.0

PERSONS.					
Treatment of Non-metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products	10.0	17.8	18.3	17.7	18.7
Bricks, Pottery, Glass	15.1	20.5	20.0	20.4	21.7
Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc.	20.3	37.1	36.7	35.9	38.0
Metals, Machines, Vehicles, etc.	171.0	369.4	371.8	370.4	397.7
Jewellery, Watches, etc.	3.3	5.8	4.7	5.1	6.0
Textiles (including knitted goods)	45.5	69.4	54.0	65.1	69.5
Skins and Leather	10.5	14.8	13.1	13.9	14.7
Clothing (including shoes)	80.4	118.0	98.8	101.4	112.5
Food, Drink and Tobacco	78.5	118.9	114.3	111.4	123.1
Sawmilling and Woodworking	28.4	53.3	53.2	52.9	58.9
Cabinet Making, Furniture, etc.	13.9	21.5	18.6	18.8	21.0
Paper, Printing, etc.	38.3	54.4	53.6	51.9	56.1
Rubber	7.2	13.7	13.0	13.6	15.0
Musical Instruments and Miscellaneous Manufactures	7.8	20.2	17.0	19.4	21.1
Heat, Light and Power	9.4	14.0	14.9	15.2	15.5
Total	539.6	948.8	902.0	913.1	989.5

(iv) *Government Employees.*—(a) *Australia, 1939 and 1951 to 1955.* The following table shows at June in each of the years 1951 to 1955, in comparison with 1939, the number of civilian employees of Commonwealth, State and Semi-Government and Local Government authorities. These include all employees of Government authorities on services such as railways, tramways, banks, post office, air transport, education, broadcasting, police, public works, factories and munitions establishments, migrant hostels, etc., as well as administrative employees, within Australia.

Civilian Employees of Government Authorities (a), Australia.

June—	Commonwealth.			State and Semi-Government.			Local Government.			Total.		
	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.
1939(b)	56,009	11,764	67,863	235,066	40,586	275,652	58,637	2,887	61,524	349,802	55,237	405,039
1951 ..	160,699	48,063	208,753	348,447	61,090	409,537	62,096	4,751	66,847	571,233	113,904	685,137
1952 ..	157,880	45,117	202,997	359,340	65,061	424,401	61,167	5,111	66,278	578,387	115,289	693,676
1953 ..	159,002	41,571	200,573	349,096	65,129	414,225	59,641	5,315	64,956	567,739	112,015	679,754
1954 ..	156,604	41,579	198,183	363,095	67,466	430,561	61,643	5,493	67,136	581,342	114,538	695,880
1955 ..	160,840	44,291	205,131	373,250	72,728	445,978	65,026	5,771	70,797	599,116	122,790	721,906

(a) See explanation on page 104.

(b) July.

(b) *States and Territories, June, 1955.* The number of civilian employees of Commonwealth, State and Semi-Government and Local Government authorities in June, 1955 is shown in the following table.

Civilian Employees of Government Authorities (a), June, 1955.

State or Territory.	Commonwealth.			State and Semi-Government.			Local Government.			Total.		
	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.	Males.	Fe-males.	Persons.
N.S.W.	55,016	14,747	69,763	133,969	24,914	158,883	26,151	2,660	28,820	215,136	42,330	257,466
Vic. ..	50,278	15,509	65,787	95,425	22,314	117,739	12,478	1,430	13,908	158,181	39,253	197,434
Qld. ..	17,717	4,594	22,311	54,328	7,188	61,516	17,849	890	18,745	89,894	12,678	102,572
S.A. ..	15,291	3,351	18,642	37,835	8,600	46,437	2,932	294	3,226	56,058	12,247	68,305
W.A.	8,979	2,157	11,136	37,080	6,150	43,230	3,363	315	3,678	49,422	8,624	58,046
Tas. ..	4,304	1,218	5,522	14,613	3,558	18,171	2,253	167	2,420	21,170	4,943	26,113
N.T. ..	2,309	530	2,839	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,309	530	2,839
A.C.T.	6,946	2,185	9,131	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,946	2,185	9,131
Total	160,840	44,291	205,131	373,250	72,728	445,978	65,026	5,771	70,797	599,116	122,790	721,906

(a) See explanation on page 104.

§ 2. Unemployment.

The total number of persons unemployed has been recorded only at the dates of the various censuses. The following table sets out the number of unemployed at the Censuses of 1911, 1921, 1933 and 1947, the National Register, 1939, and the Occupation Survey, 1945. The percentage which the unemployed bore at each date to all wage and salary earners, comprising those estimated to be in employment and those unemployed, is also shown.

Unemployment (All Causes): Australia.

Year and Month.	Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed.			Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners Unemployed		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1911—April (Census)	'000.	'000.	'000.	%	%	%
1921—April ..	48.0	8.3	56.3	4.3	2.7	4.0
1933—June (a) ..	139.4	21.5	160.9	10.7	5.7	9.6
1939—July (b) ..	460.2	103.1	563.3	27.9	19.1	25.8
1945—June (c) ..	264.0	34.0	298.0	15.0	5.7	12.6
1947—June (Census) (d)	39.9	16.2	56.1	2.7	2.3	2.6
	66.6	16.9	83.5	3.6	2.5	3.3

(a) The figures shown for 1933 are in excess of those actually recorded at the Census, an allowance having been made for a number of youths and girls who would normally have been wage and salary earners, but who, on account of the economic depression, having never been employed, were not classed as wage and salary earners.

(b) Derived from the National Register, 1939.

(c) Derived from the Occupation Survey, 1945.

(d) Persons in the work force who were not at work at the time of the Census.

The estimates and percentages of unemployment given above for periods subsequent to the Census of 1933 should be interpreted in conjunction with the notes which follow.

The estimates for 1939 were based on the National Register, which covered males aged 18-64 years, and data available from other sources. The proportion of wage earners unemployed in July, 1939, immediately prior to the 1939-45 War, was estimated at approximately 12½ per cent. In July, 1941, it was about 4 per cent. and by June, 1943, under conditions of intensive mobilization of manpower for war purposes, involuntary unemployment was practically nil. Owing to the use on the Occupation Survey (1945) card of the definition "a person normally working for wages but without a job on 1st June", it appears that the 1945 figures exclude some persons who were temporarily absent from their jobs at the date of the survey. Of the numbers at the 1947 Census shown above, 25.6 per cent. were not at work owing to sickness or accident and 26.6 per cent. stated that they were resting. Of the latter, approximately half said they expected to resume their former jobs. The numbers in need of financial relief on account of unemployment in June, 1947 were quite small. Details of unemployment benefits are shown in § 5.

§ 3. Commonwealth Employment Service.

The Commonwealth Employment Service was established under Section 47 of the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945. The principal functions of this Service, as set out in Section 48 of the Act, are to provide services and facilities for the benefit of persons seeking employment or to change employment, or to engage labour, and to provide facilities to assist in bringing about and maintaining a high and stable level of employment throughout the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Employment Service operates within the Employment Division of the Department of Labour and National Service, and is under the control of the Permanent Head of that Department. The Central Office is in Melbourne, and there is a Regional Office in the capital city of each State, with 119 District Employment Offices and 16 Branch offices in suburban and the larger provincial centres, and 340 agents in the smaller country centres. The District Employment Offices are distributed as follows:—New South Wales, 46 (including Canberra); Victoria, 30; Queensland, 19; South Australia, 9 (including Darwin); Western Australia, 11; Tasmania, 4.

In assisting persons to obtain employment and to engage labour, the Commonwealth Employment Service provides specialist facilities for persons with physical and mental handicaps, older workers, rural workers, youths and persons with professional and technical qualifications. It assists in the administration of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits provisions of the Social Services Act 1947-1955, and of the Re-employment Allowance provision of the Re-establishment and Employment Act 1945 for certain classes of discharged members of the forces. All persons who wish to claim

unemployment benefits or re-employment allowances are required to register at a District Employment Office which is responsible for certifying whether or not suitable employment can be offered to them.

In each State, other than New South Wales, vocational guidance is provided, free of charge, by a staff of qualified psychologists. (In New South Wales a similar service is provided by officers of the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry and Social Welfare which acts as agent for the Commonwealth Employment Service in this regard.) Whilst vocational guidance is available to any person, it is provided particularly for youths, ex-servicemen and the physically handicapped.

The Commonwealth Employment Service is responsible for placing in employment all Commonwealth-nominated migrant workers coming to Australia under the free and assisted passage schemes from the United Kingdom and other countries, and, as required, it provides assistance to other migrants wishing to obtain employment. When migrants coming under Commonwealth nomination arrive in Australia, the Commonwealth Employment Service arranges for them to be transported to their initial employment and for their admission, if necessary, to Commonwealth-controlled hostels. From the inception of the various free and assisted schemes, including the Displaced Persons Scheme, to the end of July, 1955 more than 136,000 British and European migrant workers had been placed in employment by the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Since 1951, the Commonwealth Employment Service has been responsible for recruiting experts for the Colombo Plan and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. The principal spheres in which experts have been supplied are agriculture, education, engineering, geology, health and economic and scientific research and development.

In association with its placement activities, the Commonwealth Employment Service carries out regular surveys of the labour market in all areas and industries and supplies detailed information to interested Commonwealth and State Government Departments and instrumentalities and to the public. It also advises employers, employees and others on labour availability and employment opportunities in various occupations and areas and on other matters concerning employment.

The Commonwealth Employment Service is responsible for the medical examination and interview of young men for training in the armed forces under the National Service Act 1951-1953, which is administered by the Department of Labour and National Service. The Commonwealth Employment Service also administers the provisions of the Act relating to the protection of the rights of National Service trainees in relation to their civil employment.

The Service completed its ninth year of operation in May, 1955. During the year ended June, 1955, there were 526,474 new registrations of applicants for employment, of whom 441,596 were referred to employers and 310,063 placed in employment, and 471,971 new vacancies were notified. Vacancies unfilled at the end of June, 1955 numbered 57,645.

§ 4. State Labour Exchanges.

Details concerning the organization and administration of State Labour Exchange Organizations in the several States were given in Labour Report No. 30, page 133. With the setting up of the Commonwealth Employment Service referred to in the preceding section these exchanges were superseded and by August, 1952, when the Queensland State Labour Bureau was taken over by the Commonwealth, all States had vacated the Employment Service field.

§ 5. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

1. **General.**—A very important addition was made to Commonwealth social legislation when the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act 1944 (from 1st July, 1947, incorporated in the Social Services Act 1947-1955) received the Royal Assent on 5th April, 1944.

The Act came into operation on 1st July, 1945, and is financed from the National Welfare Fund. The first payments were made on 19th July, 1945.

Persons eligible include all males between the ages of 16 and 65 years and all females between the ages of 16 and 60 years who have lived in Australia for the twelve months immediately preceding the claim or who satisfy the Director-General of Social Services that they intend to remain permanently in Australia and who are not receiving a service pension under the Repatriation Act or an invalid, age, or widow's pension or a tuberculosis allowance.

The payment of unemployment benefit is subject to the claimant being capable of undertaking and willing to accept suitable employment. Registration with the local Commonwealth District Employment Officer is necessary. Except where the applicant lives in remote or inaccessible areas of Australia or where for some good reason it is impossible to do so, the payment of sickness benefit is subject to the production of a medical certificate or some other satisfactory evidence.

2. **Maximum Rates of Benefits and Income.**—The maximum weekly rates of benefits payable, as at 1st June, 1955, for both unemployment and sickness and permissible income were as follows; these rates operated from 22nd September, 1952.

Age and Conjugal Condition.	Maximum Weekly Benefit.				Permissible Income.	Total Benefit Plus Income.
	Claimant.	Dependent Spouse.	Child.	Total.		
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Unmarried—						
16 years and under 17 years	30 0	..	..	30 0	5 0	35 0
17 years and under 18 years	30 0	..	..	30 0	10 0	40 0
18 years and under 21 years	40 0	..	..	40 0	15 0	55 0
21 years and over	50 0	..	..	50 0	20 0	70 0
Married	50 0	40 0	5 0	95 0	20 0	115 0

Where an unmarried claimant has the custody, care, and control of a child under the age of sixteen years, the total benefit may be increased by 5s. per week.

Additional benefit (not exceeding £2 per week) may be paid in respect of claimant's housekeeper where no such benefit is payable in respect of his wife, provided there are one or more children under sixteen years of age in the home and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant, but is not employed by him.

3. Means Test.—All benefits are subject to a means test which disregards the value of property owned by a claimant. In applying the means test for sickness benefit, any amount up to £2 per week received by the claimant from a friendly society or other approved benefit society is disregarded. For the purpose of calculating unemployment benefit, the income of the claimant and spouse is taken into account, but in the case of sickness benefit the claimant's income only will be considered in determining the amount of benefit because of the possession of other income.

A war pension is not regarded as income in assessing unemployment and sickness benefit, except where benefit is claimed for the same disability for which a war pension is granted.

Where a person is entitled to some other payment such as workers' compensation in respect of the disability for which he claims sickness benefit, payment will be made only to the extent to which such other payment is less than the amount of the sickness benefit.

In the case of unemployment provision is made for payment of benefit for the duration of the unemployment, and in the case of sickness for the duration of temporary incapacity. Where incapacity through sickness becomes permanent, an invalid pension may be granted, subject to the conditions governing the grant of invalid pensions.

4. Waiting Period.—There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable.

5. Special Benefit.—A special benefit may be granted at a rate not exceeding that which might otherwise have been payable in cases of hardship where a person is not qualified for either unemployment or sickness benefit by reason of his inability to comply with one or other of the statutory requirements.

6. Rehabilitation.—Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible for participation in the Commonwealth rehabilitation scheme under the same conditions as invalid pensioners and persons receiving a tuberculosis allowance. The grant or continuance of an unemployment or sickness benefit may be refused if the claimant or beneficiary, on being required, fails to undergo a medical examination or to receive treatment or undertake training to do any suitable work.

In the year 1954-55, 829 unemployment and sickness beneficiaries were accepted for treatment or training, and 679 were placed in employment.

7. **Unemployment Benefits.**—(i) *Number on Benefit.*—The following table shows the number of persons on benefit at the end of each month from January, 1954 to June, 1955 :—

Number of Persons on Unemployment Benefit at End of Each Month.(a)

Month.	N.S.W. (b)	Vic.	Qld.	S.A. (c)	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia.		
									Males.	Fe- males.	Per- sons.
1954—January ..	5,589	1,920	5,295	132	388	99	..	..	11,288	2,135	13,423
February ..	4,445	1,539	5,397	99	288	110	..	..	9,924	1,954	11,878
March ..	3,675	1,277	3,644	93	196	85	..	..	7,146	1,824	8,970
April ..	3,445	1,229	3,252	77	239	78	..	..	6,549	1,771	8,320
May ..	3,014	1,161	1,986	79	225	107	..	..	4,891	1,681	6,572
June ..	2,810	1,203	1,657	79	225	109	..	..	4,360	1,723	6,083
July ..	2,627	1,135	1,166	99	198	135	..	3	3,790	1,573	5,363
August ..	2,226	957	1,081	83	145	147	..	3	3,271	1,371	4,642
September ..	1,822	757	918	80	162	147	..	4	2,694	1,192	3,886
October ..	1,334	602	802	55	95	114	..	5	2,061	946	3,007
November ..	1,266	501	916	60	114	113	1	4	1,978	997	2,975
December ..	1,179	480	1,228	64	136	73	..	3	2,184	979	3,163
1955—January ..	1,248	437	2,165	67	144	52	..	4	3,190	927	4,117
February ..	1,132	363	2,371	57	147	46	..	3	3,173	946	4,119
March ..	1,240	286	2,347	43	131	35	2	2	3,143	943	4,086
April ..	1,113	288	1,799	50	157	41	2	3	2,495	958	3,453
May ..	1,049	335	1,140	62	171	32	1	4	1,834	960	2,794
June ..	1,040	319	964	70	239	45	..	2	1,670	1,009	2,679

(a) Last Saturday of month.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory to June, 1954.

(c) Includes Northern Territory to June, 1954.

(ii) *Amounts paid.*—The amounts paid in unemployment benefits for the months January, 1954 to June, 1955 are shown in the following table :—

Unemployment Benefit Payments During Each Month.

(£.)

Month.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aus- tralia.
1954—January ..	77,149	25,362	60,415	3,542	6,043	1,607	..	..	174,118
February ..	78,232	14,309	70,188	1,888	4,317	1,427	..	..	170,361
March ..	69,794	20,198	74,170	1,499	3,853	1,653	..	..	171,167
April ..	47,042	19,829	49,818	1,105	3,637	1,521	..	..	122,952
May ..	53,824	14,716	49,542	1,013	3,120	1,590	..	..	123,805
June ..	33,825	18,122	26,316	1,824	2,989	1,613	..	..	84,689
July ..	44,572	13,018	19,710	1,675	3,118	1,505	..	7	83,605
August ..	31,719	13,937	18,305	1,287	2,463	1,864	7	51	69,633
September ..	26,177	13,340	13,460	1,080	2,087	1,807	..	35	57,986
October ..	19,513	7,830	11,512	1,575	1,708	1,967	..	57	44,162
November ..	18,003	9,821	13,716	1,014	1,408	2,639	6	63	46,670
December ..	14,724	5,823	11,416	576	1,983	1,656	16	88	36,282
1955—January ..	17,077	8,820	27,084	1,384	2,376	1,329	3	53	58,126
February ..	15,506	6,861	33,842	955	1,969	658	5	46	59,842
March ..	16,398	6,417	37,088	812	2,438	560	15	65	63,793
April ..	20,913	3,900	37,335	478	2,083	653	27	56	65,445
May ..	16,709	4,410	29,624	411	2,319	477	23	38	54,011
June ..	12,663	5,128	17,324	1,139	2,757	837	10	25	39,883

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory to June, 1954.

(b) Includes Northern Territory to June, 1954.

§ 6. Industrial Disputes.

1. **General.**—The collection of information relating to industrial disputes involving stoppage of work in Australia was initiated by this Bureau at the beginning of the year 1913. An examination of official reports, newspapers, and other publications showed that there was insufficient

material for the compilation of complete information for years prior to 1913. Particulars for the first complete year were published in Labour Report No. 5 and for following years in subsequent issues.

2. **Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1954.**—The following table sets out, for each State separately and classified by industrial groups, the number and extent of industrial disputes (involving stoppage of work) which occurred during 1954.

The number of industrial disputes recorded during 1954 was 1,490 as compared with 1,459 during the previous year. In New South Wales 1,063 disputes occurred in 1954, 834 of which involved workers engaged in the coal-mining industry. Working days lost during 1954 amounted to 901,639 for all disputes in Australia, and the estimated loss of wages to £3,021,211. Graphs showing, for a number of years, the working days lost as a result of industrial disputes in the main industrial groups will be found on pp. 113 and 115.

Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1954.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
			Directly.	In-directly. (a)	Total.		
	New South Wales.						£
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	1	6	..	6	114	400
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	70	11,391	2,735	14,126	78,563	247,203
III.	Food, Drink, etc. . .	16	3,124	321	3,445	10,431	33,991
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc. . .	5	849	7	856	4,704	14,280
V.	Books, Printing, etc. . .	1	100	..	100	100	250
VI.	Other Manufacturing . . .	19	5,695	772	6,467	41,072	126,840
VII.	Building . . .	17	831	794	1,625	14,017	46,500
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining . . .	834	145,562	567	146,129	237,828	790,314
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	23	5,124	5	5,129	2,437	7,538
X.	Other Transport . . .	7	485	..	485	1,018	3,229
XI.	(i) Stevedoring . . .	62	42,105	4	42,109	105,562	367,133
	(ii) Shipping, etc. . .	3	216	..	216	319	1,098
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	1	199	..	199	870	2,134
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	4	1,394	..	1,394	4,538	13,904
	Total (b) . . .	1,063	217,081	5,205	222,286	501,573	1,654,814
	Victoria.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	10	697	73	770	6,052	19,073
III.	Food, Drink, etc. . .	17	3,851	1,782	5,633	20,595	70,105
VI.	Other Manufacturing . . .	1	147	..	147	441	1,257
VII.	Building . . .	27	5,032	32	5,064	17,381	68,350
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	2	581	..	581	3,949	10,694
X.	Other Transport . . .	3	3,295	..	3,295	11,652	30,636
XI.	(i) Stevedoring . . .	11	27,573	..	27,573	69,038	238,138
	(ii) Shipping, etc. . .	3	252	450	702	5,455	19,071
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	1	1,016	..	1,016	1,016	2,789
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	1	32	..	32	32	100
	Total . . .	76	42,476	2,337	44,813	135,611	460,213
	Queensland.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	6	450	219	669	30,873	95,713
III.	Food, Drink, etc. . .	25	16,023	5,318	21,341	45,295	135,539
V.	Books, Printing, etc. . .	1	364	2	366	527	1,810
VI.	Other Manufacturing . . .	3	91	..	91	529	1,454
VII.	Building . . .	1	135	..	135	135	450
VIII.	(i) Coal-mining . . .	106	9,155	193	9,348	17,487	70,470
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	8	4,072	843	4,915	5,273	16,893
XI.	(i) Stevedoring . . .	123	44,978	..	44,978	80,816	281,497
	(ii) Shipping, etc. . .	1	20	100	120	840	2,710
XIV.	Miscellaneous . . .	4	1,718	..	1,718	2,080	4,795
	Total . . .	278	77,006	6,675	83,681	183,855	611,331

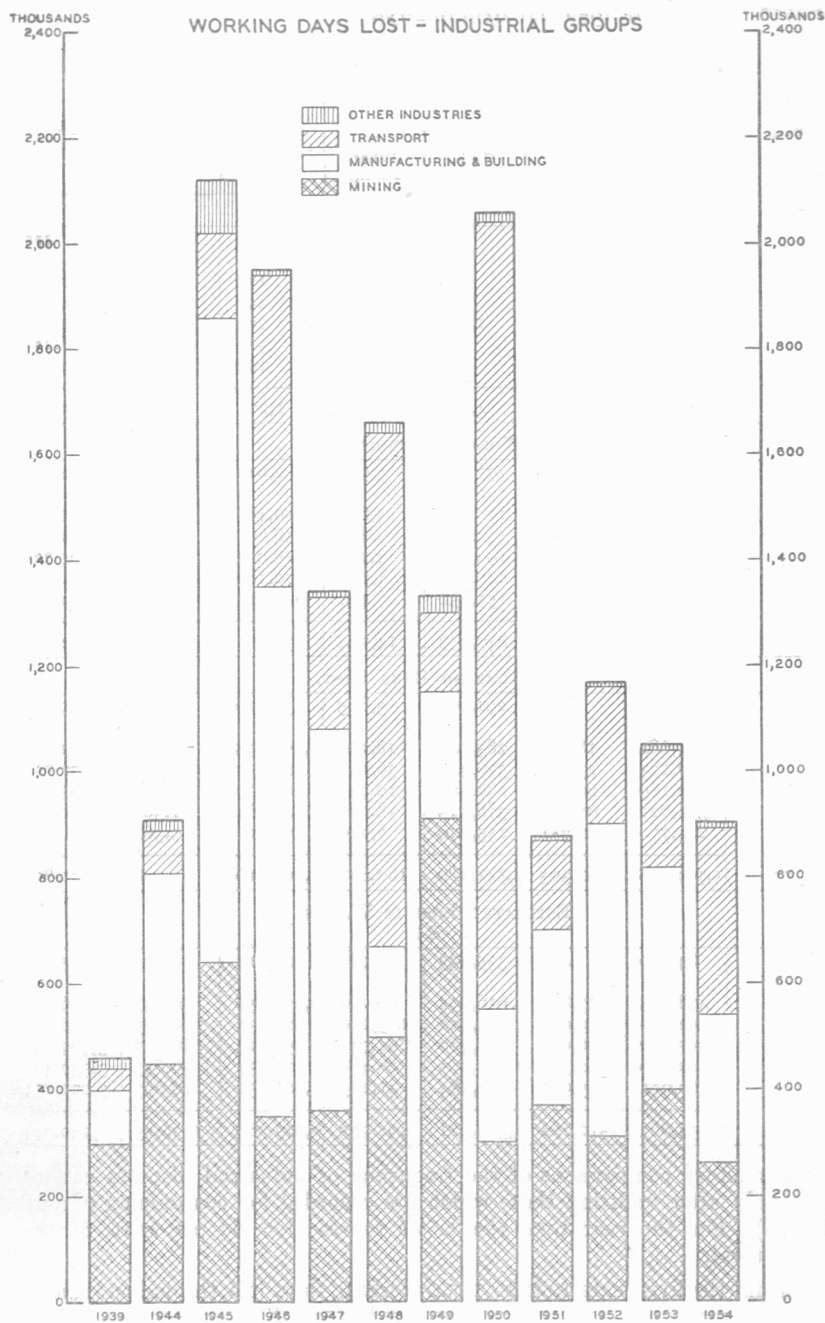
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Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, 1954—*continued*.

Class.	Industrial Group.	Num-ber.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Esti-mated Loss in Wages.
			Directly.	In-directly. (a)	Total.		
	South Australia.						£
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	3	263	..	263	1,079	3,494
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	2	1,700	..	1,700	964	2,780
VI.	Other Manufacturing	1	9	25	34	34	87
VII.	Building	1	23	..	23	23	60
VIII.	(ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	1	116	..	116	1,914	6,700
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	3	169	..	169	155	466
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	10	4,966	..	4,966	26,473	92,658
XIV.	Miscellaneous	2	45	20	65	565	1,855
	Total	23	7,291	45	7,336	31,207	108,100
	Western Australia.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	1	12	..	12	12	40
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	8	489	96	585	655	2,175
VIII.	{ (i) Coal-mining	1	43	..	43	301	900
	{ (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	1	22	..	22	22	65
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	1	27	..	27	27	72
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	3	4,805	..	4,805	20,634	72,135
	Total	15	5,398	96	5,494	21,651	75,387
	Tasmania.						
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	2	399	..	399	2,730	10,560
VIII.	{ (i) Coal-mining	1	110	..	110	110	700
	{ (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	2	350	6	356	5,784	34,500
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	2	87	130	217	1,820	5,263
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	23	4,995	..	4,995	15,391	53,619
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	1	10	..	10	80	400
	Total (b)	31	5,951	136	6,087	25,915	105,042
	Northern Territory.						
XI.	(i) Stevedoring	2	239	..	239	1,452	5,082
	Total	2	239	..	239	1,452	5,082
	Australian Capital Territory.						
VII.	Building	1	78	..	78	195	612
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	1	60	..	60	180	630
	Total	2	138	..	138	375	1,242
	Australia.						
I.	Wood, Furniture, etc. ..	1	6	..	6	114	400
II.	Engineering, Metal Works, etc.	92	13,212	3,027	16,239	119,309	376,083
III.	Food, Drink, etc.	68	25,187	7,517	32,704	77,940	244,590
IV.	Clothing, Textiles, etc. ..	5	849	7	856	4,704	14,280
V.	Books, Printing, etc. ..	2	464	2	466	627	2,060
VI.	Other Manufacturing	24	5,942	797	6,739	42,076	129,638
VII.	Building	47	6,099	826	6,925	31,751	115,072
VIII.	{ (i) Coal-mining	942	154,870	760	155,630	255,726	862,384
	{ (ii) Other Mining, Quarries, etc.	4	488	6	494	7,720	41,265
IX.	Railway and Tramway Services	89	10,060	978	11,038	13,661	40,026
X.	Other Transport	10	3,780	..	3,780	12,670	33,865
XI.	{ (i) Stevedoring	234	129,661	4	129,665	319,366	1,110,262
	{ (ii) Shipping, etc.	7	488	550	1,038	6,614	22,879
XII.	Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. ..	2	1,026	..	1,026	1,096	3,189
XIII.	Domestic, Hotels, etc. ..	2	259	..	259	1,050	2,764
XIV.	Miscellaneous	11	3,189	20	3,209	7,215	20,654
	Total (b)	1,490	355,580	14,494	370,074	901,639	3,021,211

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. (b) Two disputes in New South Wales and one in Tasmania involving respectively 184 and 236 workers commenced in 1953 and were still in progress at the beginning of 1954. Particulars of these disputes have been included in statistics of disputes for both 1953 and 1954.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA 1939 AND 1944 TO 1954



3. **Industrial Disputes in Industrial Groups, Australia.**—The following table shows in industrial groups the number of industrial disputes, the number of workers involved, and the losses in working days and wages for each of the years 1939 and 1950 to 1954.

Industrial Disputes : Australia.

Year.	Manu- facturing. (Groups I. to VI.)	Building. (Group VII.)	Mining. (Group VIII.)		Transport. (Groups IX. to XI.)	Miscel- laneous. (Groups XII. to XIV.)	All Groups.
			(i) Coal- mining.	(ii) Other Mining.			
NUMBER.							
1939 ..	20	3	362	4	6	21	416
1950 ..	118	21	953	3	159	22	1,276
1951 ..	142	25	912	4	242	19	1,344
1952 ..	164	27	1,219	7	202	8	1,627
1953 ..	143	41	944	6	311	14	1,459
1954 ..	192	47	942	4	290	15	1,490
1950-54 ..	759	161	4,970	24	1,204	78	7,196

WORKERS INVOLVED.							
1939 ..	8,818	57	137,792	900	2,017	3,246	152,830
1950 ..	80,994	10,768	178,734	3,638	150,462	7,105	431,701
1951 ..	71,606	3,667	172,732	2,843	156,608	1,136	408,592
1952 ..	157,870	1,862	193,066	4,769	145,033	3,134	505,734
1953 ..	155,249	8,417	147,791	3,020	179,786	1,783	496,046
1954 ..	57,010	6,925	155,630	494	145,521	4,494	370,074
1950-54 ..	522,729	31,639	847,953	14,764	777,410	17,652	2,212,147

WORKING DAYS LOST.							
1939 ..	108,709	563	291,067	3,805	35,016	19,994	459,154
1950 ..	231,684	18,219	283,543	18,204	1,492,195	19,043	2,062,888
1951 ..	307,173	23,750	336,447	36,255	165,437	3,912	872,974
1952 ..	572,169	20,079	286,749	19,743	261,109	3,655	1,163,504
1953 ..	351,722	67,506	378,715	18,956	222,564	11,367	1,050,830
1954 ..	244,770	31,751	255,726	7,720	352,311	9,361	901,639
1950-54 ..	1,707,518	161,305	1,541,180	100,878	2,493,616	47,338	6,051,835

ESTIMATED LOSS IN WAGES.

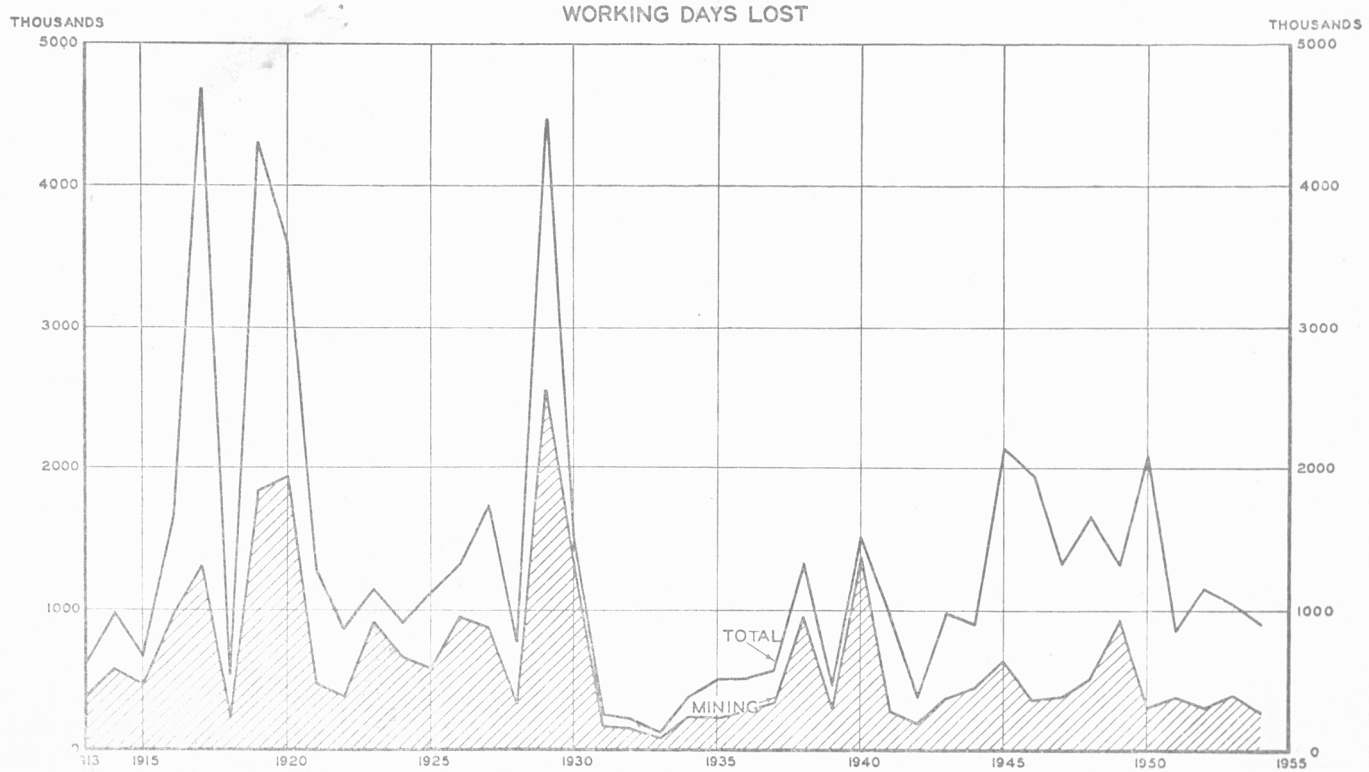
(£.)

1939 ..	83,540	424	335,033	4,728	22,114	9,877	455,716
1950 ..	418,245	37,817	616,094	86,261	2,977,558	30,443	4,166,418
1951 ..	752,319	59,961	863,928	189,200	382,435	8,185	2,256,028
1952 ..	1,593,902	56,034	932,480	94,743	752,124	10,567	3,439,850
1953 ..	1,023,366	242,500	1,247,895	80,486	703,537	39,653	3,337,437
1954 ..	767,051	115,972	862,384	41,265	1,207,932	26,607	3,021,211
1950-54 ..	4,554,883	512,284	4,522,781	491,955	6,023,586	115,455	16,220,944

Satisfactory comparisons of the frequency of industrial disputes can be made only after omitting those which are recorded for coal-mining (Group VIII. (i)). For the year 1954 the latter represented 63 per cent. of the annual total.

During the five years 1950 to 1954, working days lost through stoppages involving workers in coal-mining numbered 1,541,180, representing 25 per cent. of the total loss of working days for the period. The majority of these

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES: AUSTRALIA, 1913 TO 1954



disputes occurred in New South Wales. In making comparisons regarding the number and magnitude of disputes in this particular class it should be noted that the number of workers engaged in the coal-mining industry is very much larger in New South Wales than in any other State.

4. Industrial Disputes, States and Territories.—The number of industrial disputes in each State and Territory during the years 1939 and 1951 to 1954, together with the workers involved, the working days lost, and the estimated loss in wages, are given in the following table :—

Industrial Disputes : States and Territories.

State or Territory.	Year.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss In Wages.
			Directly.	In-directly. (a)	Total.		
New South Wales	1939	386	139,301	9,230	148,531	410,183	£ 419,330
	1951	1,052	279,823	23,738	303,561	682,418	1,803,947
	1952	1,316	333,990	13,106	347,096	763,860	2,279,619
	1953	1,080	302,007	6,375	308,382	759,391	2,403,242
	1954	1,063	217,081	5,205	222,286	501,573	1,054,814
Victoria	1939	10	1,989	180	2,169	27,313	19,946
	1951	41	27,219	27,219	27,219	42,210	104,038
	1952	33	60,753	1,167	61,920	116,339	339,109
	1953	53	65,962	2,164	68,126	57,160	176,330
	1954	70	42,476	2,337	44,813	135,611	460,213
Queensland	1939	5	373	2	375	1,870	1,753
	1951	191	51,685	4,412	56,097	96,307	218,454
	1952	195	39,298	1,624	40,922	76,286	235,914
	1953	265	87,986	3,511	91,497	153,448	405,830
	1954	278	77,006	6,675	83,681	183,855	611,331
South Australia	1939	2	170	5	175	1,880	1,416
	1951	27	12,713	21	12,734	34,057	88,286
	1952	32	24,408	1,623	26,031	64,738	175,043
	1953	24	18,502	190	18,692	55,476	200,610
	1954	23	7,291	45	7,336	31,207	108,100
Western Australia	1939	7	1,108	145	1,253	14,100	9,578
	1951	10	4,179	..	4,179	5,101	12,394
	1952	21	19,154	2	19,156	127,826	369,658
	1953	11	3,665	..	3,665	4,977	15,663
	1954	15	5,398	96	5,494	21,651	75,387
Tasmania	1939	4	53	..	53	166	93
	1951	21	4,644	..	4,644	10,401	23,949
	1952	26	10,298	34	10,332	14,143	39,640
	1953	18	5,060	6	5,075	18,441	68,259
	1954	31	5,951	136	6,087	25,915	105,042
Northern Territory	1939	2	234	40	274	3,642	3,600
	1951	1	48	..	48	60	120
	1952	3	257	..	257	272	762
	1953	5	535	..	535	1,807	7,161
	1954	2	239	..	239	1,452	5,082
Australian Capital Territory	1939	..	..	..	..	..	..
	1951	1	110	..	110	2,420	4,840
	1952	1	20	..	20	40	105
	1953	3	74	..	74	130	342
	1954	2	138	..	138	375	1,242
Australia	1939	416	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1951	1,344	380,421	28,171	408,592	872,974	2,256,028
	1952	1,627	488,178	17,556	505,734	1,163,504	3,439,850
	1953	1,459	483,800	12,246	496,046	1,050,830	3,337,437
	1954	1,490	355,580	14,494	370,074	901,639	3,021,211

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

5. Duration of Industrial Disputes.—(i) *General.*—The duration of each industrial dispute involving a loss of work, i.e., the time between the cessation and resumption of work, has been calculated in working days, exclusive of

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, except where the establishment involved carries on a continuous process (e.g., metal smelting and cement manufacture). The following classification has been adopted:—(a) One day and less; (b) two days and more than one day; (c) three days and more than two days; (d) over three days and less than one week; (e) one week and less than two weeks; (f) two weeks and less than four weeks; (g) four weeks and less than eight weeks; and (h) eight weeks and over.

(ii) *Australia, 1939 and 1951 to 1954.*—Particulars of industrial disputes, according to limits of duration, for Australia for the years 1939 and 1951 to 1954 are given in the following table:—

Duration of Industrial Disputes: Australia.

Limits of Duration.	Year.	Num- ber.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages.
			Directly.	In- directly. (a)	Total.		
1 day and less	1939	230	96,184	1,191	97,375	97,375	£ 106,970
	1951	875	246,878	14,944	261,822	216,478	536,898
	1952	1,064	345,076	4,369	349,445	330,392	966,835
	1953	956	340,404	4,255	344,659	259,852	812,185
	1954	890	192,933	3,688	196,621	170,415	570,562
2 days and more than 1 day	1939	60	16,398	872	17,270	34,540	35,648
	1951	174	56,476	1,079	57,555	97,285	229,894
	1952	242	78,735	1,665	80,400	125,510	393,737
	1953	232	62,785	1,245	64,030	99,277	318,006
	1954	267	81,044	4,148	85,792	135,493	442,133
3 days and more than 2 days	1939	38	10,103	1,374	11,477	34,431	36,427
	1951	88	17,526	3,005	20,531	55,527	139,379
	1952	100	20,289	377	20,666	55,177	168,541
	1953	66	9,274	1,244	10,518	26,874	86,691
	1954	102	23,827	705	24,532	64,744	210,434
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	1939	34	7,540	404	7,944	36,387	37,056
	1951	46	9,888	1,503	11,391	44,272	115,436
	1952	54	13,124	1,855	14,979	53,470	178,187
	1953	53	10,242	940	11,182	41,007	128,450
	1954	65	11,043	1,153	12,196	44,528	152,036
1 week and less than 2 weeks	1939	34	6,864	2,169	9,033	75,323	67,736
	1951	86	28,557	2,254	30,811	108,447	481,907
	1952	86	16,979	3,455	20,434	124,761	357,836
	1953	84	17,505	3,572	21,077	115,997	351,680
	1954	86	32,471	1,920	34,391	277,144	940,314
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks	1939	10	5,002	3,224	8,226	116,182	116,882
	1951	46	11,915	5,310	17,225	139,909	459,056
	1952	46	6,362	3,844	10,206	123,475	329,810
	1953	44	11,087	92	11,179	128,668	418,510
	1954	45	8,849	1,840	10,689	74,245	249,061
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks	1939	6	618	307	925	25,463	15,908
	1951	10	7,802	69	7,871	49,460	118,850
	1952	18	2,290	1,637	3,927	91,805	290,768
	1953	11	7,139	105	7,244	74,380	278,595
	1954	23	1,267	446	1,713	40,817	153,059
8 weeks and over	1939	4	519	61	580	39,453	39,089
	1951	10	1,379	7	1,386	71,596	174,608
	1952	17	5,323	354	5,677	258,914	754,136
	1953	13	25,364	793	26,157	304,775	943,320
	1954	12	3,546	594	4,140	94,253	297,612
Total	1939	416	143,228	9,602	152,830	459,154	455,716
	1951	1,344	380,421	28,171	408,592	872,974	2,256,028
	1952	1,627	488,178	17,556	505,734	1,163,504	3,430,850
	1953	1,459	483,800	12,246	496,046	1,050,830	3,337,437
	1954	1,490	355,580	14,494	370,074	901,639	3,021,211

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

(iii) *Australia, 1954.*—The following table shows industrial disputes in “coal-mining”, “stevedoring” and “other industries” classified according to duration.

Duration of Industrial Disputes: Australia, 1954.

Limits of Duration.	Number.	Workers Involved.			Working Days Lost.	Estimated Loss in Wages. (£)
		Directly.	Indirectly. (a)	Total.		
COAL-MINING.						
1 day and less	627	81,605	321	81,926	80,254	269,391
2 days and more than 1 day ..	176	49,113	..	49,113	77,685	263,396
3 days and more than 2 days ..	60	8,126	15	8,141	19,696	70,694
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	39	4,839	153	4,992	18,486	63,389
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	32	4,720	271	4,991	26,096	99,402
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	6	3,805	..	3,805	9,261	30,423
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	1	69	..	69	1,813	6,359
8 weeks and over	1	2,593	..	2,593	22,435	68,330
Total	942	154,870	760	155,630	255,726	862,384
STEVEDORING.						
1 day and less	156	79,588	..	79,588	62,827	215,878
2 days and more than 1 day ..	54	25,299	..	25,299	34,521	118,620
3 days and more than 2 days ..	9	1,363	..	1,363	3,772	12,831
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	3	351	..	351	1,420	4,611
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	11	23,051	..	23,051	216,696	757,938
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	1	9	4	13	130	384
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8 weeks and over .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	234	129,661	4	129,665	319,366	1,110,262
OTHER INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	107	31,740	3,367	35,107	27,334	85,293
2 days and more than 1 day ..	37	7,232	4,148	11,380	23,287	60,117
3 days and more than 2 days ..	33	14,338	600	15,028	41,276	126,909
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	23	5,853	1,000	6,853	24,622	84,036
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	43	4,700	1,649	6,349	34,352	97,974
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	38	5,035	1,836	6,871	64,854	218,254
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	22	1,198	446	1,644	39,004	146,700
8 weeks and over	11	953	594	1,547	71,818	229,282
Total	314	71,049	13,730	84,779	326,547	1,048,565
ALL INDUSTRIES.						
1 day and less	890	192,933	3,688	196,621	170,415	570,562
2 days and more than 1 day ..	267	81,044	4,148	85,792	135,493	442,133
3 days and more than 2 days ..	102	23,827	705	24,532	64,744	210,434
Over 3 days and less than 1 week	65	11,043	1,153	12,196	44,528	152,036
1 week and less than 2 weeks ..	86	32,471	1,920	34,391	277,144	916,314
2 weeks and less than 4 weeks ..	45	8,849	1,840	10,689	74,245	249,061
4 weeks and less than 8 weeks ..	23	1,267	446	1,713	40,817	153,059
8 weeks and over	12	3,546	594	4,140	94,253	297,612
Total	1,490	355,580	14,494	370,074	901,639	3,021,211

(a) Persons thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Causes of Industrial Disputes.—(i) *General.*—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40, 1951, the causes of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. As from 1950, however, stoppages have been analysed in three separate groups, “Coal mining”, “Stevedoring” and “Other Industries”. This dissection has been made because the pattern of the disputes in coal-mining and stevedoring differs significantly from that in other industries.

Under the new Classification, causes are grouped under four main headings :—(1) Wages, Hours and Leave ; (2) Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ; (3) Trade Unionism ; (4) Other Causes. The first group is restricted to disputes involving general principles relating to wages, hours and leave, minor questions regarding the claims to pay or leave by individual workers being included under managerial policy. The second group comprises disputes regarding physical working conditions and general questions of managerial policy, namely, those arising from disciplinary action, the promotion of workers, the employment of particular individuals, personal disagreements between workers and supervisory staff and disputes arising from the computation of wages, leave, etc., in individual cases. The third group, Trade Unionism, includes stoppages over employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes, disputes over recognition of union activities, and sympathy stoppages in support of workers in another industry. The last group comprises disputes by way of protest against situations not arising from the usual relationship of employer and worker, e.g., political matters, and cases (mainly occurring in the coal-mining industry) where the cause of the stoppage is not officially made known to the management.

As the items included under these headings differ somewhat from those included under the similar headings used for classifying causes of disputes in years prior to 1950 the figures for the years 1950 to 1954 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

(ii) *Australia, 1939 and 1949 to 1954.*—The following table gives particulars of industrial disputes according to causes for the years 1939 and 1949 to 1954.

Causes of Industrial Disputes : Australia.

Cause of Dispute.	1939.	1949.	1950. (a)	1951. (a)	1952. (a)	1953. (a)	1954. (a)
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
Wages, Hours and Leave..	96	187	128	186	161	105	100
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	197	328	894	803	967	896	975
Trade Unionism ..	50	84	114	159	204	187	160
Other ..	73	250	140	196	295	271	255
Total ..	416	849	1,276	1,344	1,627	1,459	1,490

WORKERS INVOLVED.

Wages, Hours and Leave..	29,290	67,821	104,075	117,409	201,274	89,443	42,923
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	56,783	48,962	173,705	151,655	183,123	218,809	214,060
Trade Unionism ..	18,651	14,234	15,651	27,684	51,819	26,176	45,437
Other ..	48,106	133,560	138,270	111,844	69,518	161,618	67,654
Total ..	152,830	264,577	431,701	408,592	505,734	496,046	370,074

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Wages, Hours and Leave..	128,525	1,019,757	1,448,462	338,026	545,017	208,776	136,738
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	189,510	118,755	443,493	359,383	444,286	657,835	413,118
Trade Unionism ..	51,749	37,154	37,580	67,280	93,133	58,038	278,332
Other ..	86,370	158,324	133,353	108,285	81,068	126,181	73,451
Total ..	456,154	1,333,990	2,062,888	872,974	1,163,504	1,050,830	901,639

(a) Owing to the use of a new classification, figures for 1950 to 1954 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

(iii) *Australia, 1954.*—The following table shows particulars of industrial disputes for 1954 classified according to cause in three industry groups.

Causes of Industrial Disputes: Australia, 1954.

Cause of Dispute.	Coal-mining.	Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.				
Wages, Hours and Leave ..	12	6	82	100
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	616	172	187	975
Trade Unionism ..	114	15	31	160
Other	200	41	14	255
Total	942	234	314	1,490

WORKERS INVOLVED.

Wages, Hours and Leave ..	13,516	3,190	26,217	42,923
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	90,985	86,292	36,783	214,060
Trade Unionism ..	12,590	23,890	8,957	45,437
Other	38,539	16,293	12,822	67,654
Total	155,630	129,665	84,779	370,074

WORKING DAYS LOST.

Wages, Hours and Leave ..	14,304	3,432	119,002	136,738
Physical Working Conditions and Managerial Policy ..	173,951	86,077	153,090	413,118
Trade Unionism ..	21,858	215,483	40,991	278,332
Other	45,613	14,374	13,464	73,451
Total	255,726	319,366	326,547	901,639

7. Results of Industrial Disputes.—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40, tables were included showing analyses of the results of industrial disputes over a period of years. This tabulation was discontinued because of the difficulty of obtaining the details necessary to make a classification, in precise terms, of the results of industrial disputes.

8. Methods of Settlement.—(i) *General.*—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 41, 1952 the methods of settlement of industrial disputes were classified in some detail for all industries combined. Commencing with the year 1951, stoppages in “Coal-mining”, “Stevedoring” and “Other Industries” have been analysed separately.

The new classification is actually a refinement of the previous classification, four of the six headings having been subdivided. Thus the figures for recent years in the table commencing on page 122 are still comparable with those for earlier years based on the previous classification.

The previous classification of methods of settlement was—

- (i) By negotiation between the parties, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation.
- (ii) Under the provisions of State industrial legislation.
- (iii) Under the provisions of Commonwealth industrial legislation.
- (iv) By filling places of workers on strike or locked out.
- (v) By closing down establishment permanently.
- (vi) By other methods.

The new classification is—

- (1) Negotiation.—By private negotiation between the parties involved, or their representatives, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Part of (i) above.)
- (2) Mediation.—By the arbitration or mediation of persons whose intervention or assistance is not based on State or Commonwealth industrial legislation. (Balance of (i) above.)
- (3) State Legislation—
 - (a) Under State Conciliation and Arbitration or Wages Board Legislation.—By intervention or assistance of an industrial authority or authorities created by or constituted under State conciliation and arbitration or wages board legislation, or by reference to such authorities or by compulsory or voluntary conference. (Part of (ii) above.)
 - (b) Under Other State Legislation.—By intervention, assistance or advice of State Government officials or inspectors. (Balance of (ii) above.)
- (4) Commonwealth and Joint Commonwealth-State Legislation—
 - (a) By compulsory or voluntary conference or by intervention or assistance of, or by reference to, the industrial tribunals created by or constituted under the following Acts. (Part of (iii) above)—
 - (i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act.
 - (ii) Coal Industry Acts.
 - (iii) Stevedoring Industry Act.
 - (iv) Other Acts (Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act; Maritime Industry Act; and Public Service Arbitration Act).
 - (b) By intervention, assistance or advice of Commonwealth Government officials or inspectors. (Balance of (iii) above.)
- (5) By filling places of workers on strike or locked out. (Formerly (iv) above.)
- (6) By closing down establishment permanently. (Formerly (v) above.)
- (7) By resumption without negotiation. (Part of (vi) above.)
- (8) By other methods. (Balance of (vi) above.)

As the tables refer only to industrial disputes involving stoppages of work, they do not reflect the relative importance of the work of authorities operating under State and Commonwealth legislation.

(ii) *Australia, 1939 and 1949 to 1954.*—Information for Australia for the years specified is given in the following table:—

Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes: Australia.(a)

Method of Settlement.	1939.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.							
By Private Negotiation	294	296	346	271	368	287	293
Under State Industrial Legislation	7	50	46	48	49	70	77
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation	6	54	141	175	169	136	130
By Filling Places of Workers on Strike or Locked out	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
By Closing down Establishment permanently	2	..	..	1	1	..	..
By other methods	106	448	739	846	1,036	963	985
Total	416	848	1,272	1,341	1,623	1,456	1,487

WORKERS INVOLVED.

By Private Negotiation	82,684	44,878	62,463	45,691	48,289	39,369	45,053
Under State Industrial Legislation	5,354	27,003	5,722	21,786	12,385	29,957	24,169
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation	3,268	38,187	77,036	50,442	42,950	43,287	35,238
By Filling Places of Workers on Strike or Locked out	20	..	..	..	..	..	199
By Closing down Establishment permanently	178	..	..	29	353	..	..
By other methods	61,326	154,326	286,103	290,373	400,184	383,013	262,753
Total	152,830	264,394	431,324	408,321	504,161	495,626	367,412

WORKING DAYS LOST.

By Private Negotiation	298,652	246,519	395,967	126,792	271,665	125,817	130,057
Under State Industrial Legislation	39,013	146,000	30,974	133,904	98,938	246,175	118,160
Under Commonwealth Industrial Legislation	46,450	764,983	1,256,511	200,909	193,994	165,564	119,767
By Filling Places of Workers on Strike or Locked out	20	..	..	..	..	..	460
By Closing down Establishment permanently	3,892	..	..	203	6,001	..	..
By other methods	71,127	176,122	375,139	390,717	585,044	500,331	508,020
Total	459,154	1,333,624	2,058,591	852,525	1,155,642	1,037,887	876,464

(a) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year.

(iii) *Australia, 1954.*—In the following table particulars of industrial disputes classified according to method of settlement are shown separately for coal-mining, stevedoring and other industries.

Methods of Settlement of Industrial Disputes: Australia, 1954.(a)

Method of Settlement.	Coal-mining.	Stevedoring.	Other Industries.	All Industries.
NUMBER OF DISPUTES.				
1. By Private Negotiation	191	5	86	282
2. By Mediation not based on Legislation	5	1	5	11
3. State Legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., Legislation ..	3	2	65	70
(b) By Reference to State Government Officials ..	7	..	..	7
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State Legislation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act ..	..	3	47	50
(ii) Coal Industry Acts ..	51	..	..	51
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act ..	..	11	1	12
(iv) Other Acts ..	..	..	1	1
(b) By Reference to Commonwealth Government Officials ..	..	16	..	16
5. By Filling Places of Workers on Strike or Locked Out ..	..	1	1	2
7. By Resumption without Negotiation	684	195	104	983
8. By Other Methods .. .. .	..	..	2	2
Total	941	234	312	1,487

WORKERS INVOLVED.

1. By Private Negotiation	18,504	812	23,053	42,369
2. By Mediation not based on Legislation	768	129	1,787	2,684
3. State Legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., Legislation ..	670	378	21,511	22,559
(b) By Reference to State Government Officials ..	1,610	..	..	1,610
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State Legislation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act ..	..	322	7,346	7,668
(ii) Coal Industry Acts ..	11,072	..	..	11,072
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act ..	..	13,518	600	14,118
(iv) Other Acts ..	..	..	40	40
(b) By Reference to Commonwealth Government Officials ..	..	2,340	..	2,340
5. By Filling Places of Workers on Strike or Locked Out ..	..	190	9	199
7. By Resumption without Negotiation	120,413	111,976	30,265	262,654
8. By Other Methods .. .. .	..	..	99	99
Total	153,037	129,665	84,710	367,412

WORKING DAYS LOST.

1. By Private Negotiation	34,525	1,795	84,912	121,232
2. By Mediation not based on Legislation	1,366	260	7,199	8,825
3. State Legislation—				
(a) Under State Conciliation, etc., Legislation ..	1,769	407	111,830	114,006
(b) By Reference to State Government Officials ..	4,154	..	..	4,154
4. Commonwealth and Commonwealth-State Legislation—				
(a) Industrial Tribunals under—				
(i) Conciliation and Arbitration Act ..	..	979	67,255	68,234
(ii) Coal Industry Acts ..	34,786	..	..	34,786
(iii) Stevedoring Industry Act ..	..	11,256	1,800	13,056
(iv) Other Acts ..	..	..	1,020	1,020
(b) By Reference to Commonwealth Government Officials ..	..	2,671	..	2,671
5. By Filling Places of Workers on Strike or Locked Out ..	..	451	9	460
7. By Resumption without Negotiation	156,691	301,547	48,313	506,551
8. By Other Methods .. .. .	..	..	1,469	1,469
Total	233,291	319,366	323,807	876,464

(a) Differences between the total figures of this table and the corresponding totals of other tables in this section are due to disputes which were incomplete at the end of the calendar year.

§ 7. Industrial Accidents.

1. **General.**—In issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 39, 1950, tables were published showing details of all industrial accidents. These were compiled from returns received from the Chief Inspectors of Factories, the Chief Inspectors of Machinery, the Boiler, Lift and Scaffolding Inspectors, and the Departments of Mines in the several States. Inquiries, however, revealed that, except in the case of mining accidents, the usefulness of these statistics was seriously impaired by lack of definition and coverage from State to State and it was decided, as a temporary measure, to publish only the statistics of mining accidents.

2. **Mining Accidents.**—(i) *Sources of Information.*—Information regarding mining accidents is obtained from the Departments of Mines in the respective States. Accidents occurring in crushing and ore-dressing works on mine sites are included in the figures. Similar tables for years prior to 1951 included accidents in all smelting and metallurgical works. Quarries, brick and clay pits, etc., have also been excluded from the following table. The figures shown are not, therefore, directly comparable with those appearing in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40.

(ii) *Classification.*—The following table gives particulars of mining accidents reported to the Mines Department in each State in 1954.

Mining Accidents : Classification according to Cause, 1954(a)

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (c)
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A.—Fatal Accidents.

METALLIFEROUS MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives	2	..	2	1	5
" " " Falls of Ground ..	..	1	..	..	3	..	4
" " " Falling down shafts, etc. ..	1	..	..	..	2	..	3
Other Accidents	2	..	1	..	3	1	7
2. Above Ground—(d)							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion .. ..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Other Accidents .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines .. ..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
COAL MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.) .. ..	..	..	7	..	..	..	7
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth	5	1	1	..	..	..	7
Other Accidents	6	..	..	..	..	..	6
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Other Accidents	4	..	..	..	..	..	4
Total	18	4	14	..	13	2	51

For notes see following page.

Mining Accidents : Classification according to Cause, 1954.(a)—continued.

Cause of Accident.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aus- tralia. (c)
B.—Non-fatal Accidents Incapacitating for over 14 days.							
METALLIFEROUS MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Explosives ..	3	..	2	..	2	1	8
" " " Falls of Ground ..	14	1	19	..	39	..	73
" " " Falling down shafts, etc. ..	..	..	1	..	20	2	23
Other Accidents	154	..	76	..	308	13	551
2. Above Ground—(d)							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	14	1	7	3	25	5	55
Other Accidents	72	..	47	8	93	13	233
3. Accidents in Batteries, Ore-dressing Works, etc., at Mines .. ..	..	..	102	12	6	27	147
COAL MINES.							
1. Below Ground—							
Accidents caused by Mine Explosions (Fire Damp, etc.) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Accidents caused by Explosives (Dynamite, etc.)	21	1	1	..	..	..	23
Accidents caused by Falls of Earth	26	10	48	..	5	4	93
Other Accidents	33	6	161	..	105	5	310
2. Above Ground—							
Accidents caused by machinery in motion	2	..	4	1	7	1	15
Other Accidents	6	..	55	11	30	..	102
Total	345	19	523	35	640	71	1,633

(a) The figures relating to mining accidents may not in all cases correspond exactly with those published by the State Mines Departments, owing to some lack of uniformity regarding the definition of a non-fatal accident. (b) Excludes uranium mining. (c) Excludes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Excludes quarries, brick and clay pits, etc.

During the year 1954, 39 fatal mining accidents were reported as having occurred below ground in Australia as compared with 12 above ground. Fatal accidents in metalliferous mines in 1954 numbered 26 as against 25 in coal mines. The number of non-fatal mining accidents below ground was 1,081 and above ground 552.

§ 8. Workers' Compensation Legislation.

In the following pages is a summary of the principal provisions of Workers' Compensation Acts in force in Australia as at 30th June, 1955.

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN

State.	Acts in Force.	Judicial Administration.
New South Wales	Workers' Compensation Act, 1926-1954	Workers' Compensation Commission (Judges, District Court status). In practice, Judge sits alone; four Courts sit at one time
Victoria ..	Workers' Compensation Act 1953 . . .	County Court Judge (sitting with workers' and employers' representatives as Workers' Compensation Board)
Queensland ..	Workers' Compensation Acts, 1916 to 1955	Special Insurance Commissioner (no legal qualifications required by Statute)
South Australia ..	Workmen's Compensation Act, 1932-1953	Special Magistrates
Western Australia	Workers' Compensation Act, 1912-1954	Workers' Compensation Board of three members; Chairman, a legal practitioner, and a nominee of (a) employers' organization and (b) employees' organization
Tasmania ..	Workers' Compensation Act 1927-1954	Supreme Court Judges (sitting alone)
Commonwealth of Australia	Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act 1930-1954	One Commissioner (Secretary to the Treasury), with power of delegation
Australian Capital Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1951-1954	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbitrator. Questions of law may be referred to the Court of Petty Sessions
Northern Territory	Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1949-1954	Matters in dispute may by consent of each party be settled by arbitration by a committee or by a single arbitrator, or they may be settled by a Local Court

AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1955).

Appeals.	Maximum Wages of "Workers" Compensated.	Waiting Period.	Medical, Surgical and Hospital Expenses.
On the question of law only to Supreme Court, High Court and Privy Council	£2,000, excluding overtime	Nil ..	£300 medical and surgical; £300 hospital; £25 ambulance; unless Commission directs that employer shall be liable for a further specified sum
On question of law upon case stated for opinion of Full Court of the Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£2,000, excluding overtime	Nil ..	Unlimited medical, hospital, nursing and ambulance service and costs of burial
Any person claiming compensation who objects to the ruling thereon of the Insurance Commissioner may require the matter to be heard and determined by an Industrial Magistrate. Either party to the proceedings may appeal from his decision. Such appeal shall be made to the Full Bench of the Industrial Court. Unless the Court orders that additional evidence shall be taken, the appeal which shall be by way of rehearing shall be heard and determined upon the evidence and proceedings before the Industrial Magistrate concerned	Unlimited	1 day for compensation	£50 hospital; £50 medical; in death where no dependants, medical expenses and burial, maximum £100
Questions of law and fact to Supreme Court, High Court, Privy Council	£1,721 10s. (overtime allowances excluded)	1 day, Nil for payment of medical expenses	£5 for transport; £40 for treatment by doctor, etc., or for medical appliances; £50 for hospital; £5 for registered nurse; maximum of all, £100
Jurisdiction exclusive; decisions final on facts. Board may state a case for Full Court of Supreme Court on matters of law	Unlimited	Nil ..	£100 medical, £150 hospital, £50 funeral
To Full Court by way of rehearing, High Court, Privy Council	£1,300 or £25 p.w. ..	Nil ..	Not exceeding £125 in the aggregate
Rehearing by Local, County or District Court, then appeal to Supreme Court on questions of law, High Court, Privy Council	No limitation on remuneration. Application only to Commonwealth Government employees, and of such Commonwealth authorities as are prescribed	Nil ..	£200 medical, surgical or hospital, or over in exceptional circumstances if Commissioner considers circumstances warrant. £60 funeral expenses
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of the Court of Petty Sessions	£2,000, excluding overtime, bonuses and special allowances	Nil ..	Not exceeding £200 unless exceptional circumstances warrant payment of larger sum
An appeal to the Supreme Court may be made from the decision of a committee or an arbitrator or of a Local Court	£2,000 per annum, exclusive of payments for overtime, bonuses and special allowances	Nil ..	Not exceeding £200 for medical, surgical or hospital treatment or ambulance service, except in special circumstances. This is additional to other compensation

CONSPICUOUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN

State.	Workers' Compensation Payments	
	Percentage of Average Weekly Earnings (a.w.e.).	Maximum.
New South Wales	75 per cent. 	£8 16s. with no dependants, with dependants £12 16s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower
Victoria ..	.. .. .. .. ..	Adult £8 16s. with no dependants (with dependants £12 16s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower). Minor £6 8s. without dependants (with dependants £11 4s. or a.w.e., whichever is lower)
Queensland ..	75 per cent. 	£8 16s. adjustable according to movements of basic wage (with dependants, a.w.e.)
South Australia ..	75 per cent. 	Married man with dependent wife or child under 16 years, £12 or a.w.e., whichever is lower. Any other workman, £8 15s.
Western Australia	.. .. .. .. ..	Adult male on or above basic wage, £8 16s. p.w. with no dependants. (With dependants, £12 16s. p.w. or a.w.e., whichever is lower.) Adult female on or above female basic wage, £6 p.w. with no dependants. (With dependants, £9 p.w. or a.w.e., whichever is lower.) Male or female below basic wage, such sum as bears to £8 16s. p.w. or £6 p.w. respectively, the ratio which his or her a.w.e. bear to the basic wage (with no dependants). (With dependants the maximum is the a.w.e.)
Tasmania ..	.. .. .. .. ..	£9 plus dependants' allowances or 75 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower
Commonwealth of Australia	.. .. .. .. ..	£8 15s. (£6 10s. if a minor not receiving adult rate of pay) plus allowances for dependants; or a sum equal to the pay of the employee at the time of the injury or of the rate of pay of an employee of the same class as subsequently varied by competent authority or following upon a variation in the cost of living; whichever is the less. In all cases plus the cost of medical treatment
Australian Capital Territory	.. .. .. .. ..	Same as Commonwealth of Australia (above)
Northern Territory	.. .. .. .. ..	Same as Commonwealth of Australia (above)

AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1955)—*continued*.

in Case of Total Disablement.

Minimum.	In respect of Dependents.	Total Liability.
Adult male, £5 15s. Adults whose a.w.e. are less than £7 13s., 100 per cent. of a.w.e. but not exceeding £5 15s. Minors whose a.w.e. are less than £5 15s., 100 per cent. of a.w.e., but not exceeding £4 5s.	£2 10s. for wife or adult dependant, plus £1 per child (including children to whom worker stands <i>in loco parentis</i>), subject to prescribed maximum	No limit
Nil	£2 8s. for wife or relative caring for his children if wife or relative is wholly or mainly dependent upon him, plus 16s. per child under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,800 except in cases of (a) permanent and total disablement, or (b) permanent and partial disablement of major degree
£4, or 100 per cent. of a.w.e., not less than £3 10s. in the case of Commonwealth Age and Invalid Pensioners	£2 10s. per week for wife, 15s. per week each child and stepchild under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,800
£3, except for workman under 21 with no dependants, where minimum payment is a.w.e.	£2 for dependent wife and 15s. each child under 16 years of age	£2,250
£4, or 100 per cent. of a.w.e., whichever is lower	£2 for dependent wife, 16s. each dependent child under 16 years of age	£2,400
Nil	£2 5s. for wife or adult dependant, plus £1 2s. per child under 16 years of age, subject to prescribed maximum	£2,340
Same as for maximum	£2 5s. (a) for dependent wife; or (b) female dependant over 16 years of age, who is either caring for a child under 16 years of age and dependant on employee or a member of employee's family, plus £1 per dependent child, subject to maximum of weekly pay at date of injury	£2,350 except in respect of total and permanent incapacity when liability unlimited
Same as for maximum	£2 5s. for wife or a female (over 16 years of age) wholly or mainly dependent upon the workman, who is a member of his family or caring for a child under 16 years of age wholly or mainly dependent on the workman, plus £1 for each child under 16 years of age who is wholly or mainly dependent upon the workman	Unlimited where the injury results in the total and permanent incapacity of the workman for work, otherwise £2,350 plus the cost of medical treatment
Nil	Same as Australian Capital Territory (above)	£2,350, excluding cost of medical, surgical and hospital treatment and ambulance service. This does not limit compensation in case of death or total and permanent incapacity

CONSPICUOUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN

State.	Death Payments.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Special Provision for Children.
New South Wales	Four years' earnings: £2,500. Deduction of lump sum or weekly payments made before death from death benefit is not permitted	£1,000	£100 additional for each dependent child under 16 years of age
Victoria ..	£2,240, plus £80 for each dependent child (excluding payments for total incapacity, if any, paid prior to death)	Nil	Yes
Queensland ..	£2,500, plus £75 for each child and stepchild under 16 years of age (total dependants); in case of minors dependency is presumed and minimum of £200 is payable to parents of deceased worker	£2,500 total dependants; £250 partial dependants; £200 death of worker under 21 years of age	£75 each for child or stepchild
South Australia	Four years' earnings, maximum £2,000, plus £75 for each dependent child	£500, plus £75 for each dependent child	£75 for each dependent child
Western Australia	£2,500, plus £75 for each dependent child under 16 years of age not being an ex-nuptial child	£800 for a wholly dependent widow, mother, child or stepchild under 16 years of age only, plus £75 for each dependent child	£75 for each dependant child or stepchild under 16 years of age not being an ex-nuptial child
Tasmania ..	£2,240, plus £80 for each dependent child under 16 years of age	Nil	Yes
Commonwealth of Australia	£2,350, plus £100 for each dependent child	Proportionate payment for partial dependency	£100 additional for each totally or mainly dependent child under 16 years of age
Australian Capital Territory	£2,350 plus £100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age, plus the cost of medical treatment. Any amount, by way of weekly payments, paid or payable before the death of the workman in respect of his total or partial incapacity for work shall be disregarded	As in previous column	£100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age
Northern Territory	£2,350, plus £100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age, plus up to £60 funeral expenses	Nil	£100 for each dependent child under 16 years of age

AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1955)—continued.

Lump Sum for Scheduled Injuries.	Provision re Aged and Injured Workers.	Insurance.
Yes. Two or more such sums may be claimed in respect of the same accident without any limit on total amount so payable. No deduction in respect of weekly payments is permitted	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes (excluding payments made on account of period of illness resulting from injury)	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No, except provision for minimum disablement payments	Compulsory with State Government Insurance Office
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No	Compulsory and competitive
Yes	No .. .. .	.. .. .
Yes. Such payment is not subject to deduction in respect of any amount previously paid by way of a weekly payment	No	Compulsory (unless exempted by the Minister) and competitive
Yes. This is in addition to previous weekly payments	No	Compulsory (unless exempted by the Administrator) and competitive

CONSPECTUS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAWS IN

State.	Government Insurance Office.	Compensation payable in respect of injuries received whilst travelling to or from work.
New South Wales	Yes, competitive	Same as for injury arising out of or in course of employment
Victoria	Yes, competitive	Yes
Queensland	Yes, monopoly	The same as provided for other injuries
South Australia ..	No, except for employees of South Australian Government	Only if being conveyed by employer's transport or travelling to a trade, technical or other school for training
Western Australia	Yes. Competitive, except in mining operations	Only if travelling between employer's establishment and any trade, technical or other training school during ordinary working hours
Tasmania	Yes, competitive	Yes, if travelling to a trade, technical or other training school
Commonwealth of Australia	.. .. .	Yes
Australian Capital Territory	No	Yes
Northern Territory	No	Yes

AUSTRALIA (AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1955)—*continued.*

Dusts.			
Silicosis.		Other Dusts.	
Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.	Maximum Weekly Payments.	Total Liability.
Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	Special scheme with benefits as for other injuries	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
£? ..	Compensation is payable to a sufferer during his lifetime. On death weekly payments to widow continue until total of £2,500 paid. Minimum aggregate payment to widow, £300; maximum weekly payment to widow, £5	Same as provided for other injuries	Same as provided for other injuries
Workmen's Compensation Scheme As for other injuries ..	As for other injury ..	Only as proclaimed under Second Schedule As for other injuries	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	£2,400 ..	As for other injuries ..	£2,400
Workers' (Occupational Diseases) Relief Fund Act 1954 Unmarried, £5; married, £8; ros. each child under 16 years	£2,340 ..	As for silicosis ..	£2,340
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries
As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries ..	As for other injuries

CHAPTER V.—LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS.

§ 1. Labour Organizations in Australia.

1. **General.**—In Labour Report No. 2 an outline was given of the method adopted to ascertain the number of members of labour organizations in Australia, and tabulated results up to the end of 1912 were included. From the beginning of 1913 quarterly returns were obtained from a considerable number of trade unions, both as to membership and unemployment, and these were supplemented at the end of each year by special inquiries as to the membership of those unions which, owing to the nature of the callings and industries covered, were unable to furnish quarterly unemployment returns. The following pages show the general situation in regard to the trade union movement in Australia at present, and its development since 1939. The affairs of single unions are not disclosed in the published results and this has assisted in securing complete information. The Bureau is indebted to the secretaries of trade unions for their co-operation in supplying information.

In this chapter figures for the years 1951 to 1954 are compared with 1939. Particulars for earlier years will be found in preceding issues of the Labour Report.

2. **Trade Unions—Number and Membership, States.**—The following table gives particulars of the number of separate unions and the number of members at the end of the years 1939 and 1951 to 1954:—

Trade Unions: Number and Membership.

Year.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
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NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS.

1939..	200	149	114	117	141	79	4	15	(a) 380
1951..	225	156	128	137	152	101	17	29	(a) 359
1952..	223	159	129	139	151	98	15	31	(a) 360
1953..	224	159	129	138	152	98	18	28	(a) 365
1954..	228	158	129	138	154	98	18	29	(a) 371

NUMBER OF MEMBERS.

1939..	358,391	216,803	180,653	67,282	67,833	22,062	761	1,685	915,470
1951..	678,338	433,407	277,037	140,067	105,507	47,413	2,764	5,738	1,690,271
1952..	649,163	416,349	274,908	137,495	105,462	46,948	2,340	4,877	1,637,542
1953..	665,737	424,428	285,718	140,154	107,642	48,293	2,535	5,251	1,679,758
1954..	732,737	433,891	305,304	147,555	109,589	50,290	2,168	5,970	1,787,504

PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP.(b)

1939..	3.3	0.8	6.5	8.7	0.1	4.8	5.6	9.6	3.4
1951..	5.6	6.7	5.5	1.9	1.9	5.3	13.4	0.2	5.3
1952..	-4.3	-3.9	-0.8	-1.8	-0.0	-1.0	-15.3	-15.0	-3.1
1953..	2.6	1.9	3.9	1.9	2.1	2.9	8.3	7.7	2.6
1954..	10.1	2.2	6.9	5.3	1.8	4.1	-14.5	13.7	6.4

(a) Without interstate duplication. (See letterpress below.)

(b) On preceding year.

NOTE.—Minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

The substantial increase in the number of members of trade unions in 1954 was partly the result of an amendment to the New South Wales Industrial Arbitration Act, 1940-1953, which gave absolute preference of employment to members of appropriate trade unions, and also made it compulsory for persons over 18 years of age working under State awards or agreements (except students, those holding managerial positions, conscientious objectors and ex-servicemen) to join an appropriate trade union.

The types of trade unions in Australia vary greatly, and range from the small independent association to the large interstate organization, which, in its turn, may be a branch of an international body. Broadly speaking, there are four distinct classes of labour organizations:—(i) the local independent; (ii) the State; (iii) the interstate; and (iv) the Australasian or international. The schemes of organization of interstate or federated unions vary greatly in character. In some unions the State organizations are bound together under a system of unification with centralized control, while in others the State units are practically independent and self-governing, the federal bond being loose and existing only for one or two specified purposes.

In the preceding table, under the heading "Number of Separate Unions", a union with members in a State is counted as one union within that State. The figures by States do not add to the Australian total (shown in the last column) because a union represented in more than one State is included in the figure for each State in which it is represented, but is counted only once in the Australian total.

Because of the difficulties involved, the collection of statistics relating to the "Number of Branches" of trade unions appearing in issues of this publication prior to No. 39 has been discontinued.

3. Trade Unions—Number and Membership, Industrial Groups.—The following table gives the number and membership of trade unions in Australia in industrial groups at the end of the years 1951 to 1954 compared with 1939.

Trade Unions: Industrial Groups, Australia.

Industrial Group.	1939.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS.(a)					
Manufacturing—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	4	6	6	6	6
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	22	15	15	15	15
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	35	35	35	36	39
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. . .	12	6	6	6	6
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	8	6	6	6	6
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	37	37	37	37	36
VII. Building . . .	28	26	26	28	28
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	13	12	12	12	13
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . .	29	25	25	25	26
X. Other Transport . . .	6	9	9	9	9
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . .	21	13	13	13	13
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	5	4	3	3	3
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	18	14	14	14	12
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical . .	20	17	17	17	18
(ii) Public Service . . .	50	58	60	63	61
(iii) Retail and Wholesale . . .	8	12	12	13	13
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring . . .	11	12	12	10	10
(v) Other Miscellaneous . . .	53	52	52	52	57
Total . . .	380	359	360	365	371

(a) Without interstate duplication. See above.

Trade Unions : Industrial Groups, Australia—continued.

Industrial Group.	1939.	1951.	1952.	1953.	1954.
NUMBER OF MEMBERS.					
Manufacturing—					
I. Wood, Furniture, etc. . .	27,990	42,180	42,439	43,051	43,572
II. Engineering, Metal Works, etc. . .	99,731	242,800	245,831	246,217	258,838
III. Food, Drink, Tobacco, etc. . .	80,328	104,605	93,847	95,806	104,335
IV. Clothing, Textiles, etc. . .	68,847	131,873	100,056	111,788	117,292
V. Books, Printing, etc. . .	22,303	35,211	34,494	35,467	38,912
VI. Other Manufacturing . . .	52,074	80,581	75,619	80,027	84,456
VII. Building . . .	45,651	134,198	115,837	123,811	143,071
VIII. Mining, Quarrying, etc. . .	48,812	48,646	49,991	50,575	49,833
IX. Railway and Tramway Services . . .	105,938	130,405	144,710	143,642	143,680
X. Other Transport . . .	19,488	58,918	60,111	59,494	62,025
XI. Shipping, Wharf Labour, etc. . .	28,760	45,972	42,703	39,941	40,372
XII. Pastoral, Agricultural, etc. . .	40,276	59,911	59,055	62,070	63,831
XIII. Domestic, Hotels, etc. . .	13,177	34,485	37,749	33,025	36,611
XIV. Miscellaneous—					
(i) Banking, Insurance and Clerical . . .	39,013	104,762	104,486	108,605	112,946
(ii) Public Service . . .	80,848	183,541	187,255	195,777	202,797
(iii) Retail and Wholesale . . .	36,290	60,847	58,917	62,723	72,604
(iv) Municipal, Sewerage and Labouring . . .	46,552	75,926	72,858	75,097	81,115
(v) Other Miscellaneous . . .	50,392	107,010	111,584	112,702	131,154
Total . . .	915,470	1,690,271	1,637,542	1,679,758	1,787,504

4. Trade Unions—Numbers of Members and Proportion of Wage and Salary Earners.—(i) *General*.—The following tables show the estimated percentages of wage and salary earners in employment who are members of trade unions. The data on which the numbers of wage and salary earners are based are described in Chapter IV. (page 99). As current estimates of wage and salary earners in employment do not include employees engaged in rural industry or females in private domestic service the percentages have been calculated on figures obtained by adding to the end of year estimates the numbers of employees in rural industry and female private domestic service recorded at the Census of June, 1947. For this reason, and also because the membership of trade unions includes some persons not in employment, the percentages shown in the tables must be regarded as approximations.

(ii) *States*.—The table below shows for each State the numbers of males, females and persons who were members of trade unions in December, 1954 and the estimated percentages as described above. In interpreting these, it should be noted that certain employees such as those in professional occupations may not be eligible for membership of a specified union, while others may not reside in a locality covered by a union devoted to their particular trade or occupation. The percentages are not directly comparable with those published in issues of the Labour Report prior to No. 40.

Trade Unions : Number of Members and Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners(a), States, December, 1954.

State.	Number of Members.			Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	(Per cent.)		
				Males.	Females.	Persons.
New South Wales(b) . .	596,661	142,046	738,707	72	46	65
Victoria . .	350,128	83,763	433,891	61	36	53
Queensland . .	237,554	67,750	305,304	79	70	77
South Australia . .	126,805	20,750	147,555	67	33	58
Western Australia . .	92,980	16,609	109,589	63	36	56
Tasmania . .	42,129	8,161	50,290	60	36	54
Australia(c) . .	1,448,223	339,281	1,787,504	69	44	62

(a) Includes allowance for unemployed. Northern Territory.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Includes

(iii) *Australia*.—Similar particulars for Australia as at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1951 to 1954 are given in the following table.

Trade Unions: Number of Members and Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners(a), Australia.

Year.	Number of Members.			Proportion of Total Wage and Salary Earners.		
	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.
1939	778,336	137,134	915,470	52	24	44
1951	1,368,694	321,577	1,690,271	66	42	60
1952	1,354,248	283,294	1,637,542	67	40	60
1953	1,381,103	298,655	1,679,758	67	40	60
1954	1,448,223	339,281	1,787,504	69	44	62

(a) Includes allowance for unemployed.

5. Trade Unions—Classification according to Number of Members.—The following table shows the number and membership of all trade unions in Australia at the end of each of the years 1939 and 1951 to 1954, classified according to size. In this table interstate unions are counted once only.

Trade Unions: Classification according to Number of Members, Australia.

Classification.	10,000 and over.	5,000 and under 10,000.	2,000 and under 5,000.	1,000 and under 2,000.	500 and under 1,000.	300 and under 500.	200 and under 300.	100 and under 200.	50 and under 100.	Under 50.	Total.
NUMBER OF UNIONS.											
1939 ..	27	14	41	43	52	28	30	52	41	52	380
1951 ..	40	22	44	45	49	31	18	40	26	44	359
1952 ..	39	23	43	46	46	32	22	37	31	40	360
1953 ..	39	25	38	57	44	34	17	41	32	38	365
1954 ..	42	24	38	55	43	35	22	47	27	38	371
MEMBERSHIP.											
1939 ..	568,624	87,077	134,204	59,283	36,776	10,578	7,483	7,225	2,655	1,565	915,470
1951 ..	1,263,561	156,866	143,037	64,632	35,417	12,274	4,648	5,504	2,017	1,412	1,690,271
1952 ..	1,205,007	166,965	138,839	65,805	33,652	13,176	5,615	4,863	2,416	1,204	1,637,542
1953 ..	1,237,265	178,149	123,436	83,885	30,253	13,190	4,314	5,658	2,413	1,195	1,679,758
1954 ..	1,358,148	171,494	121,106	78,481	30,057	13,736	5,253	6,319	1,830	1,080	1,787,504
PROPORTION OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP. (PER CENT.)											
1939 ..	62.1	9.5	14.7	6.5	4.0	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.2	100.0
1951 ..	74.8	9.3	8.5	3.8	2.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0
1952 ..	73.6	10.2	8.5	4.0	2.1	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0
1953 ..	73.7	10.6	7.3	5.0	1.8	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0
1954 ..	76.0	9.6	6.8	4.4	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0

In the last part of the preceding table the percentage which the membership in each group bears to the total membership of all groups is given. The tendency towards closer organization is evidenced by the fact that although membership of trade unions increased between 1912 and 1954 by 313 per cent., the number of unions having less than 2,000 members considerably decreased, namely, from 360 to 267. In 1954, 7.7 per cent. of trade union members belonged to unions having less than 2,000 members as compared with 13.7 per cent. in 1939 and 28.1 per cent. in 1912.

6. Interstate or Federated Trade Unions.—The following table gives particulars regarding the number and membership of interstate or federated trade unions having branches in two or more States. The figures include interstate unions registered under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, as well as federated unions which are not so registered :—

Interstate or Federated Trade Unions : Number and Membership.(a)

Particulars.	Unions Operating in—					Total.
	2 States.	3 States.	4 States.	5 States.	6 States.	
Number of Unions	1939 ..	19	11	20	21	42
	1951 ..	12	15	15	38	60
	1952 ..	14	14	17	38	59
	1953 ..	12	12	20	35	60
	1954 ..	12	11	26	32	58
Number of Members	1939 ..	30,888	33,319	120,664	209,369	361,884
	1951 ..	36,437	47,636	93,109	442,507	882,229
	1952 ..	34,878	46,061	121,121	420,240	827,331
	1953 ..	32,050	46,691	134,998	381,910	885,795
	1954 ..	32,889	54,725	179,527	496,509	809,283

(a) Certain unions have, in addition to branches in the States, branches in the Northern Territory and in the Australian Capital Territory.

The number of organizations operating in two or more States increased from 72 in 1912 to 139 in 1954, and the ratio of the membership of such organizations to the total membership of all organizations rose from 65 per cent. to 88 per cent. during the same period.

7. Central Labour Organizations.—In each of the capital cities, as well as in a number of other industrial centres, delegate organizations, consisting of representatives from a group of trade unions, have been established. Their revenue is raised by means of a *per capita* tax on the members of each affiliated union. In the majority of the towns where such central organizations exist, most of the local unions are affiliated with the central organization, which is usually known as the Labour or the Trades Hall Council. In Western Australia a unified system of organization extends over the industrial centres throughout the State, and there is a provincial branch of the Australian Labour Party, having a central council and executive, and metropolitan and branch district councils with which the local bodies are affiliated. The central council, on which all district councils are represented, meets periodically. In the other States, however, the organization is not so close, and though provision usually exists in the rules of the central council in the capital city of each State for the organization of district councils, or for the representation on the central council of the local councils in the smaller industrial centres of the State, the councils in each State are, as a matter of fact, independent bodies. The following table gives the number of metropolitan and district or local labour councils, together with the number of unions and branches of unions affiliated therewith, in each State at the end of the years 1939 and 1951 to 1954.

Central Labour Organizations : Number, and Unions and Branch Unions Affiliated.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N. T.	A.C.T.	Aus- tralia.
No. of Councils	1939 ..	3	5	6	2	8	2	1	27
	1951 ..	11	9	12	6	10	5	1	55
	1952 ..	11	9	12	6	10	5	1	55
	1953 ..	10	9	12	6	10	5	1	54
	1954 ..	11	9	13	6	10	4	1	55
No. of Unions and Branch Unions Affiliated	1939 ..	103	179	79	50	210	59	9	689
	1951 ..	272	276	141	128	427	96	3	1,365
	1952 ..	272	283	135	130	395	104	3	1,341
	1953 ..	255	275	128	127	369	109	4	1,287
	1954 ..	288	270	152	124	399	92	4	1,350

The figures regarding number of unions do not necessarily represent separate unions, since the branches of a large union may be affiliated with the local trades councils in the several towns in which they are represented.

Between the trade union and the central organization of unions may be classed certain State or district councils organized on trade lines and composed of delegates from separate unions whose members' interests are closely connected by reason of their occupations. Delegate councils of bakers, bread carters and mill employees, or of unions connected directly or indirectly with the metal trades, or with the building trades, may be so classed.

A Central Labour Organization, now called the Australian Council of Trade Unions, came into being during 1927. The Council was created to function on behalf of the trade unions of Australia, and was founded at an All-Australian Trade Union Congress held in Melbourne in May, 1927. The Australian Council of Trade Unions consists of affiliated unions and affiliated Metropolitan and/or State Labour Councils and Provincial Councils. The Metropolitan or State Labour Council in each State is the State Branch of the A.C.T.U. and has the right to appoint two representatives to act on the Executive of the Council. In addition to the representatives from the Metropolitan or State Labour Councils, the Executive consists of four officers, namely, the President, two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary, who are elected by and from the Australian Congress of Trade Unions.

The objectives of the Council are the socialization of industry, i.e., production, distribution and exchange, and the utilization of the resources of Australia for the benefit of the people—ensuring full employment, with rising standards of living, real security and full cultural opportunities for all. The methods to be adopted are :—the closer organization of the workers by the transformation of the Australian Trade Union Movement from the craft to an industrial basis, by grouping of unions in their respective industries and by the establishment of one union in each industry; the consolidation of the Australian Labour Movement with the object of unified control, administration, and action; the centralized control of industrial disputes; educational propaganda among unions; and by political action to secure satisfactory working-class legislation.

The A.C.T.U. is the first interstate body in Australia with authority to deal with industrial matters of an interstate character affecting the trade union movement generally. It is also the body responsible for submitting to the Commonwealth Government the names of persons suitable for selection as the Australian workers' delegate to the annual International Labour Conference.

8. Organizations Registered under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.—Under Part VI. of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act any association of employers in any industry who have, or any employer who has, employed not less than 100 employees during the six months preceding application for registration, and any association of not less than 100 employees in any industry may be registered.* Registered unions include both interstate associations and associations operating within one State only.

* Under the Public Service Arbitration Act an association of less than 100 employees may be registered as an organization provided that its members comprise at least three-fifths of all persons engaged in that industry in the Service. Such organizations are included in the figures shown in the paragraph following.

At the end of 1954 the number of employers' organizations registered under the provisions of the Act was 56. The number of unions registered at the end of 1954 was 150 with membership of 1,447,646, representing 81 per cent. of the total membership of all trade unions in Australia.

§ 2. International Labour Organization.

1. **General.**—The International Labour Organization (I.L.O.) was established on 11th April, 1919, as an autonomous institution associated with the League of Nations. Its original constitution was adopted as Part XIII. of the Treaty of Versailles and formed part of other treaties of peace. During the years between its establishment and the outbreak of the 1939–45 War, the I.L.O., with headquarters in Geneva, played a leading role in promoting the improvement of labour conditions throughout the world. In 1940, in order to ensure that the I.L.O. should be able to continue to function freely, a working centre was established at Montreal. In 1946 the Organization became the first of the specialized agencies of the United Nations. Under the terms of agreement, the United Nations recognizes the I.L.O. as a specialized agency having responsibility in the field defined by its constitution, which embraces labour conditions, industrial relations, employment organization, social security and other aspects of social policy. The Organization has three basic parts. These are the International Labour Conference, its highest authority, which as a rule meets annually; the Governing Body, its executive council, which usually meets four times each year; and the International Labour Office, which provides the Secretariat of the Organization. The Conference is composed of delegations from the Member States of the Organization. In June, 1955 there were 70 Member States, each of which is entitled to be represented by four delegates—two Government, one representing employers and one representing workers, together with their advisers. In accordance with amendments adopted at the 36th Session of the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body, as from the elections held in Geneva in 1954, has consisted of the representatives of twenty governments, and ten employers' and ten workers' representatives. Particulars are given in previous issues of the Labour Report of the proceedings of International Labour Conferences up to the 37th Session which was held in Geneva in June, 1954.

2. **The International Labour Conference.**—The 38th Session of the International Labour Conference commenced in Geneva on 1st June, 1955. The Australian delegation consisted of :—Government delegates : Mr. R. L. Harry, Mr. A. A. L. Brentwood; Employers' delegate : Mr. L. C. Burne; Workers delegate : Mr. R. R. Broadby.

The Conference considered, among other things, vocational rehabilitation of the disabled, migrant workers (under-developed countries), penal sanctions for breaches of contract of employment, vocational training in agriculture and welfare facilities for workers.

3. **Governing Body.**—The Australian Government as a deputy member was represented at the 125th session of the Governing Body, which met at Geneva during May, 1954. Subsequently Australia was elected to full membership of the Governing Body at the 37th Session of the International Labour Conference, and was represented as a full member at the 126th, 127th, 128th and 129th Sessions of the Governing Body which met in June,

1954 (Geneva), November, 1954 (Rome), March, 1955 (Geneva) and May, 1955 (Geneva) respectively, by Mr. R. L. Harry, Australian Permanent Delegate to the European Office of the United Nations.

4. **General Conferences.**—In addition to the above-mentioned conferences Australia was represented at a number of the specialist and regional conferences held by the I.L.O., such as the European Regional Conference (Geneva, January, 1955) and the Asian Advisory Committee (Geneva, March, 1955) and at the Industrial Committees, such as the Metal Trades Committee (Geneva, November, 1954) and the Permanent Agricultural Committee (Paris, September, 1955), which were of particular interest to the Government, employers and workers of Australia.

APPENDIX.

SECTION 1.

Sydney : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1954.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1954.
Groceries, &c.—														
Bread (b) ..	2 lb.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Flour, ordinary ..	"	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30
" self-raising ..	"	11.86	11.71	11.71	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.94
Tea ..	1 lb.	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50	19.50
Sugar ..	"	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	68.60	68.60	88.85	89.00	63.59
Rice ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	16.06	15.56	14.25	13.60	12.90	12.75	13.00	12.60	12.60	12.60	12.15	12.15	13.35
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45
Oats, flaked ..	1 lb.	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.50	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45	18.45
Raisins, seeded ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.92	8.92	8.88	8.56	8.56	8.56	8.56	8.56	8.79
Currants ..	"	33.10	33.10	33.10	33.10	33.10	33.05	32.70	32.70	32.70	32.70	32.40	31.85	32.80
Apricots, dried ..	"	24.21	24.21	24.21	24.21	24.21	24.21	24.67	24.50	24.67	24.21	24.21	24.21	24.31
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	69.40	69.40	66.83	66.20	68.50	68.50	66.67	64.00	64.17	64.17	63.00	64.20	66.25
Pears, canned ..	"	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.45	38.45	38.45	39.00	38.63
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	41.25	41.45	40.95	41.55	41.55	41.35	41.50	41.00	41.15	41.15	41.15	41.70	41.31
Onions, brown ..	lb.	40.72	39.02	41.65	37.14	35.93	32.86	31.83	31.29	27.68	27.68	31.23	29.21	33.85
Soap ..	"	9.15	9.20	8.90	8.70	8.30	8.65	9.50	8.75	7.30	7.00	9.00	8.50	8.58
Kerosene ..	quart	16.67	16.67	16.67	16.67	16.67	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	17.64
Dairy Produce—		8.46	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.36	8.30	8.33	8.33	8.33	8.33	8.34	8.34	8.36
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.30	49.30	49.30	49.30	49.50	49.43
Cheese, mild ..	"	33.55	33.55	33.55	33.55	33.55	33.55	33.55	33.50	33.56	33.56	33.56	33.56	33.55
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	66.00	66.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	65.25
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	73.89	74.22	74.56	74.56	74.56	73.50	72.89	69.83	68.44	68.78	68.83	67.94	71.83
Milk, condensed ..	tin	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50
" fresh (b) ..	quart	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00
Meat—														
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.	March Quarter.				June Quarter.				September Quarter.				
" rib ..	"	40.89				41.57				40.99				41.86
" steak, rump ..	"	25.93				25.67				25.90				26.23
" chuck ..	"	54.97				55.07				55.97				55.64
" sausages ..	"	27.43				27.63				28.60				28.47
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"	19.20				19.26				19.90				19.55
" " brisket ..	"	33.80				32.90				33.20				33.99
Mutton, leg ..	"	24.43				23.40				24.13				24.46
" " forequarter ..	"	21.67				21.03				21.75				21.26
" " loin ..	"	14.37				13.42				15.35				14.44
" " chops, loin ..	"	23.83				22.50				24.70				23.65
" " leg ..	"	23.87				22.50				24.67				23.65
Pork, leg ..	"	25.17				23.60				25.37				24.61
" loin ..	"	57.37				54.90				52.70				54.33
" chops ..	"	58.03				56.87				53.97				55.52
" " ..	"	58.43				56.30				53.40				55.11

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

Melbourne : Average Retail Prices(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1954.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1954.
Groceries, &c.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread (b) ..	2 lb.	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
Flour, ordinary ..	"	11.22	11.22	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.11	11.15	11.15	11.15	11.15	11.15	11.15
" self-raising ..	"	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50	17.50
Tea ..	lb.	55.05	55.05	55.05	55.05	55.15	55.15	55.15	55.15	68.35	68.35	88.80	89.00	62.94
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	11.95	11.95	11.90	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.95	12.00	11.95	12.00	11.96
Tapioca, seed ..	"	23.70	22.60	22.60	18.25	18.25	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	14.13	12.63	12.63	17.65
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.20	27.30	27.30	27.30	27.30	27.30	27.30	27.30	27.40	27.28
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.05	19.05	19.10	19.00	19.00	19.00	18.90	19.00	19.04
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	8.17	8.17	8.17	8.80	8.80	9.00	9.00	9.20	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.40	8.91
Raisins, seeded ..	"	31.89	31.89	31.89	31.25	31.25	30.56	30.22	30.39	30.39	30.28	29.50	29.28	30.73
Curants ..	"	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.69	22.69	22.56	22.63	22.63	22.63	22.63	22.63	22.60	22.67
Apricots, dried ..	"	59.92	59.92	59.92	59.21	59.42	61.56	60.56	60.56	60.56	60.56	60.58	60.42	60.27
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	33.45	33.50	33.50	33.50	33.55	33.60	33.65	33.65	33.65	33.65	33.50	33.20	33.53
Pears, canned ..	"	34.75	34.90	35.05	35.05	35.60	35.75	35.80	35.80	35.85	35.85	36.00	35.70	35.51
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	35.00	28.58	28.00	28.00	28.00	24.11	20.75	20.75	13.33	13.21	17.50	23.92	23.43
Onions, brown ..	lb.	8.00	5.40	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.42	5.92	5.92	6.33	6.33	7.00	8.60	6.25
Soap ..	"	16.54	16.54	16.54	16.54	16.54	17.92	18.18	18.11	18.11	18.11	18.11	18.11	17.45
Kerosene ..	quart	8.46	8.41	8.30	8.20	8.17	8.18	8.18	8.15	8.15	8.18	8.17	8.11	8.22
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.39
Cheese, mild ..	"	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	63.00	67.40	67.00	67.00	67.00	67.00	61.00	61.00	61.00	60.90	60.90	60.90	63.68
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	80.13	80.13	80.13	80.13	80.13	80.13	79.75	64.00	64.00	66.25	64.00	63.71	73.54
Milk, condensed ..	tin	22.15	22.10	22.05	22.05	22.05	22.05	22.05	22.05	22.05	22.15	22.45	22.45	22.14
" fresh (b) ..	quart	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00
Meat—			March Quarter.			June Quarter.			September Quarter.			December Quarter.		
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.		38.33			38.90			38.90			38.90		38.76
" rib ..	"		33.32			33.60			33.52			33.63		33.52
" steak, rump ..	"		49.37			49.43			50.03			50.43		49.82
" chuck ..	"		32.10			32.40			32.50			32.50		32.38
" sausages ..	"		19.84			20.00			20.15			19.79		19.95
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"		37.87			37.87			37.50			37.82		37.77
" " brisket ..	"		28.17			28.33			27.43			27.77		27.93
Mutton, leg ..	"		23.86			23.95			24.14			23.71		23.92
" forequarter ..	"		14.43			14.86			15.14			14.57		14.75
" loin ..	"		22.14			22.38			22.05			21.76		22.08
" chops, loin ..	"		23.19			23.43			23.29			22.95		23.22
" " leg ..	"		25.43			26.57			26.43			25.67		26.03
Pork, leg ..	"		59.88			58.85			51.93			49.22		54.97
" loin ..	"		60.50			59.55			52.70			50.37		55.78
" chops ..	"		60.22			59.40			53.30			51.20		56.03

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

Brisbane : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1954.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average. 1954.
Groceries, &c.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread (b) ..	2 lb.	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
Flour, ordinary ..	"	8.90	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.95	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.99
" self-raising ..	"	17.15	17.30	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20	17.20
Tea ..	lb.	55.10	55.10	55.10	55.10	55.10	55.35	55.35	55.35	60.50	67.70	86.70	86.70	62.43
Sugar ..	"	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.98	8.98	8.98	8.98	8.98	8.98	8.98	8.95	8.95	8.97
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.94	11.94	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.99
Tapioca, seed ..	"	16.20	15.36	15.64	15.06	14.94	14.56	14.78	14.89	14.88	14.33	13.69	13.56	14.82
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	27.70	27.75	27.80	27.90	27.80	27.85	27.60	27.70	27.85	27.85	27.80	27.45	27.75
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	17.35	17.35	17.30	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.35	17.40	17.40	17.35	17.35	17.40	17.36
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	10.38	10.38	10.38	10.38	9.63	10.13	10.13	9.92	9.92	9.92	9.92	10.17	10.11
Raisins, seeded ..	"	28.25	28.25	28.25	28.30	28.30	27.65	26.90	26.95	26.70	26.65	27.00	26.60	27.48
Currants ..	"	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	21.75	22.00	21.75	22.00	22.00	21.75	21.75	21.81
Apricots, dried ..	"	54.80	52.17	50.70	51.89	54.22	54.67	55.00	54.38	54.20	54.20	54.20	54.40	53.74
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	35.90	36.10	36.10	35.65	35.75	36.30	36.35	36.25	36.35	36.30	36.05	36.10	36.10
Pears, canned ..	"	38.15	37.83	37.67	37.20	37.70	37.85	37.90	38.10	38.75	37.95	37.80	37.60	37.88
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	52.11	43.94	61.06	48.25	42.00	36.90	33.40	31.80	31.10	35.15	37.50	26.55	39.15
Onions, brown ..	lb.	8.50	9.65	9.65	9.15	8.70	8.15	9.33	7.10	4.75	4.50	6.95	6.55	7.75
Soap ..	"	16.44	16.44	16.44	16.44	16.44	16.44	17.37	18.13	18.13	18.13	18.13	18.13	17.22
Kerosene ..	quart	8.61	8.49	8.41	8.38	8.38	8.38	8.34	8.36	8.33	8.34	8.34	8.34	8.39
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	48.90	48.90	48.90	48.90	48.90	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.10	49.02
Cheese, mild ..	"	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	31.70	31.98
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	60.60	60.70	61.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	51.50	51.60	51.60	51.50	51.40	57.70	57.72
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	65.65	66.10	67.45	67.40	67.40	67.50	63.90	64.15	64.15	64.15	57.95	57.85	64.47
Milk, condensed ..	tin	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.30	23.32
" fresh (b) ..	quart	15.10	15.10	15.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	16.10	15.10	15.10	15.10	15.60
Meat—			March Quarter.			June Quarter.		September Quarter.				December Quarter.		
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.		32.17			31.10		31.35				34.23		32.21
" rib ..	"		23.30			22.10		22.35				24.90		23.16
" steak, rump ..	"		38.17			36.90		37.01				40.16		38.06
" chuck ..	"		22.07			20.90		21.01				23.22		21.80
" sausages ..	"		17.27			17.11		17.10				17.73		17.30
Beef (corned) silver- side ..	"		28.07			27.10								
" brisket ..	"		23.80			22.90		27.35				30.10		28.16
Mutton, leg ..	"		21.23			19.36		23.01				25.11		23.71
" forequarter ..	"		15.95			14.24		20.36				21.10		20.51
" loin ..	"		21.18			17.60		15.11				15.75		15.26
" chops, loin ..	"		22.00			20.30		18.56				19.43		19.19
" leg ..	"		21.15			19.36		21.18				21.94		21.36
Pork, leg ..	"		52.33			51.10		20.29				21.08		20.47
" loin ..	"		51.13			49.53		48.33				44.80		49.14
" chops ..	"		51.03			49.53		46.97				43.53		47.79
								46.97				43.67		47.80

(b) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

Adelaide : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1954.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average. 1954.
Groceries, &c.—		<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Bread (b) ..	2 lb.	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00
Flour, ordinary ..	"	10.05	10.05	10.05	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.01
" self-raising ..	"	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45	16.45
Tea ..	lb.	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	69.00	69.00	89.00	89.00	63.67
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	15.95	15.95	15.95	15.20	14.90	13.95	13.80	13.45	13.10	12.00	13.15	13.15	14.30
Jam, plu-n ..	1½ lb.	27.10	27.10	27.10	27.15	27.15	27.15	27.15	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.25	27.17
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50	18.50
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25
Raisins, seeded ..	"	32.00	32.06	32.06	32.00	31.78	31.78	29.28	28.67	28.50	28.50	28.50	28.50	30.30
Currants ..	"	22.80	22.90	22.90	22.95	22.90	22.90	22.95	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.00	23.05	22.95
Apricots, dried ..	"	56.78	56.78	56.90	57.30	57.72	57.85	58.15	58.15	58.30	58.35	58.20	58.20	57.72
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	35.45	35.45	35.45	35.85	36.05	36.25	36.10	36.10	36.35	36.35	36.35	36.35	36.03
Pears, canned ..	"	37.20	37.20	37.20	37.20	37.25	37.25	37.35	37.35	37.35	37.35	37.35	37.35	37.28
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	35.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	21.43	21.00	20.40	20.40	14.48	25.00	29.29	24.92
Onions, brown ..	lb.	9.75	8.25	8.20	7.60	7.60	7.40	12.70	11.50	8.50	7.50	7.70	7.70	8.70
Soap ..	"	16.67	16.67	16.67	16.67	16.67	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	17.64
Kerosene ..	quart	7.85	7.84	7.78	7.77	7.74	7.74	7.74	7.74	7.74	7.74	7.76	7.76	7.77
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50	49.50
Cheese, mild ..	"	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.50
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	57.60	60.65	62.50	64.70	64.60	64.60	61.65	55.55	50.75	46.05	43.55	43.55	56.31
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	73.10	73.10	73.10	73.10	73.10	73.10	73.10	67.45	65.55	65.45	65.45	65.45	70.25
Milk, condensed ..	tin	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.28
" fresh (b) ..	quart	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50
Meat—			March Quarter.			June Quarter.		September Quarter.			December Quarter.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.		27.20			28.43		31.80			32.00			29.86
" rib ..	"		26.40			27.57		30.17			29.93			28.52
" steak, rump ..	"		44.15			44.86		49.47			49.50			47.00
" chuck ..	"		26.63			26.99		30.00			30.07			28.42
" sausages ..	"		17.33			17.38		18.00			18.00			17.68
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"		31.46			31.65		35.47			35.73			33.58
" brisket ..	"		25.04			25.00		29.37			29.60			27.48
Mutton, leg ..	"		20.64			22.39		23.97			23.62			22.66
" forequarter ..	"		10.95			12.14		13.20			12.30			12.15
" loin ..	"		19.85			20.76		23.35			22.50			21.46
" chops, loin ..	"		21.18			21.73		24.13			23.13			22.05
" leg ..	"							24.27			23.27			22.61
Pork, leg ..	"		57.92			58.63		53.70			51.27			55.38
" loin ..	"		57.92			58.63		53.70			51.70			55.54
" chops ..	"		57.99			58.73		54.03			52.03			55.70

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION I.—continued.

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Perth : Average Retail Prices(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1954.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1954.
Groceries, &c.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread (b) ..	2 lb.	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	13.50	14.00	14.00	13.58
Flour, ordinary ..	"	11.00	11.00	11.95	11.95	11.95	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.90	11.86
" self-raising ..	"	19.20	19.20	19.30	19.30	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.20	19.22
Tea ..	lb.	55.90	55.90	55.90	55.90	55.90	55.90	55.90	55.90	68.60	69.95	92.45	92.45	64.22
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	11.85	11.85	11.60	11.89	11.94	11.94	11.94	11.95	11.90	11.85	11.80	11.75	11.86
Tapioca, seed ..	"	24.63	23.30	22.92	21.25	20.40	19.80	21.60	18.00	16.67	16.50	15.50	15.50	19.67
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	31.75	31.80	31.55	31.61	31.75	31.75	31.85	31.85	31.80	31.80	31.85	31.85	31.77
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	19.90	19.90	19.85	19.85	19.95	19.85	19.90	19.95	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.85	19.88
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	9.07	9.14	9.14	9.14	9.29	9.38	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.22
Raisins, seeded ..	"	34.42	34.78	34.73	34.62	34.62	33.44	30.17	30.17	30.10	30.08	30.08	30.08	32.27
Currants ..	"	24.20	24.45	24.25	24.00	23.63	23.88	24.15	23.90	24.00	24.00	23.90	23.90	24.02
Apricots, dried ..	"	60.43	59.83	59.83	61.00	61.00	61.00	61.33	62.43	62.43	62.43	61.00	61.00	61.14
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	37.75	38.00	38.05	38.35	39.10	39.45	38.85	39.45	39.45	39.15	39.15	39.20	38.83
Pears, canned ..	"	39.30	39.35	40.15	39.65	40.35	40.85	40.25	40.65	40.70	40.70	40.65	40.65	40.28
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	29.00	29.00	29.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	27.75	27.75	30.54
Onions, brown ..	lb.	6.00	6.13	6.31	6.38	6.38	7.63	18.29	11.88	9.88	9.14	8.00	7.94	8.66
Soap ..	"	17.57	17.57	17.57	17.57	17.57	18.73	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	19.30	18.53
Kerosene ..	quart	13.20	13.12	13.05	13.04	13.04	13.04	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.05	13.07
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	49.60	49.97
Cheese, mild ..	"	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	54.00	53.70	53.80	54.00	54.00	59.79
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	73.11	73.11	73.17	73.17	73.17	71.89	71.67	68.67	68.67	68.33	66.75	66.13	70.65
Milk, condensed ..	tin	23.40	23.35	23.40	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.35	23.36
" fresh (b) ..	quart	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.06	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
Meat—			March Quarter.			June Quarter.			September Quarter.			December Quarter.		
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.		35.39			38.93			38.82			38.15		37.82
" rib ..	"		29.58			32.58			33.58			33.53		32.32
" steak, rump ..	"		48.80			52.60			53.90			53.83		52.28
" " chuck ..	"		33.00			36.01			36.77			35.37		35.29
" sausages ..	"		21.51			21.81			22.33			21.81		21.87
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"		35.13			37.77			37.67			36.93		36.88
" " brisket ..	"		28.87			30.57			30.63			29.00		29.09
Mutton, leg ..	"		27.67			30.20			30.27			27.26		28.85
" " forequarter ..	"		16.83			18.67			19.51			17.38		18.10
" " loin ..	"		26.80			29.90			30.06			27.16		28.48
" " chops, loin ..	"		26.87			29.90			30.23			27.53		28.63
" " " leg ..	"		26.87			29.90			30.23			27.53		28.63
Pork, leg ..	"		62.67			62.53			57.23			50.42		58.21
" " loin ..	"		62.64			62.36			57.37			50.59		58.24
" " chops ..	"		62.74			62.61			57.37			50.59		58.33

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

APPENDIX.

SECTION I.—continued.

Hobart : Average Retail Prices^(a) of Chief Food and Groceries Items during each Month of the Year, 1954.

Item.	Unit.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Average, 1954.
Groceries, &c.—		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread (b) ..	2 lb.	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
Flour, ordinary ..	"	10.55	10.45	10.40	10.35	10.60	10.60	10.70	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.65	10.58
" self-raising ..	"	19.10	19.05	19.00	19.05	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.10	19.08
Tea ..	lb.	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	69.30	69.30	91.00	91.00	64.05
Sugar ..	"	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Rice ..	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
Tapioca, seed ..	"	22.65	22.20	20.90	20.56	17.83	17.00	16.94	16.94	17.31	17.00	17.00	17.00	18.61
Jam, plum ..	1½ lb.	29.10	29.00	28.50	28.55	28.50	28.45	28.45	28.55	28.55	28.55	28.60	28.55	28.61
Golden Syrup ..	2 lb.	20.20	20.15	20.15	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.20	20.25	20.15	20.15	20.15	20.18
Oats, flaked ..	lb.	10.13	10.50	10.25	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.10	10.15
Raisins, seeded ..	"	32.78	32.78	32.78	32.78	32.61	31.70	32.00	32.50	32.50	32.50	32.00	31.95	32.41
Currants ..	"	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.50	25.40	25.50	25.50	25.60	25.60	25.60	25.40	25.40	25.53
Apricots, dried ..	"	59.56	59.56	59.56	60.30	60.90	61.20	61.20	61.20	60.80	60.33	60.33	58.60	60.30
Peaches, canned ..	30 oz.	39.85	39.45	38.70	39.20	38.60	39.20	38.85	38.85	38.85	38.85	38.85	38.75	39.05
Pears, canned ..	"	42.50	42.50	41.90	41.90	41.85	41.70	41.70	41.90	41.90	42.05	41.75	42.05	41.98
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	42.38	32.34	30.80	29.33	28.35	27.16	23.52	21.14	21.00	21.70	21.35	43.26	28.53
Onions, brown ..	lb.	12.14	10.43	10.13	9.44	9.19	9.19	11.00	11.25	10.50	10.00	10.33	12.14	10.48
Soap ..	"	16.67	16.67	16.67	16.67	16.67	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	18.33	17.64
Kerosene ..	quart	12.78	12.74	12.74	12.72	12.68	12.73	12.61	12.61	12.63	12.63	12.63	12.63	12.68
Dairy Produce—														
Butter, factory ..	lb.	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Cheese, mild ..	"	35.22	35.05	34.30	33.24	33.39	33.35	32.91	32.91	32.91	33.91	32.33	32.97	33.54
Eggs, new laid ..	doz.	66.67	66.67	66.67	67.06	66.69	66.69	66.44	60.39	60.39	60.39	57.39	57.44	63.57
Bacon, rashers ..	lb.	72.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	72.00	71.33	67.20	67.20	67.50	67.50	67.80	70.04
Milk, condensed ..	tin	23.45	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50	23.50
" fresh (b) ..	quart	16.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	18.00
Meat—			March Quarter.			June Quarter.		September Quarter.			December Quarter.			
Beef, sirloin ..	lb.		42.97			41.80		41.87			41.13			41.94
" rib ..	"		35.59			34.62		34.34			33.75			34.58
" steak, rump ..	"		57.77			56.00		56.00			55.57			56.34
" " chuck ..	"		38.43			36.90		36.80			36.00			37.03
" sausages ..	"		22.90			23.47		23.53			23.03			23.23
Beef (corned) silver-side ..	"		41.37			40.97		41.00			40.57			40.98
" " brisket ..	"		33.73			33.00		33.00			31.77			32.88
Mutton, leg ..	"		24.33			24.11		28.00			29.11			26.39
" " forequarter ..	"		12.89			11.74		14.89			15.26			13.70
" " loin ..	"		23.67			23.63		21.74			20.30			22.34
" " chops, loin ..	"		23.85			23.78		21.81			20.37			22.45
" " leg ..	"		24.37			24.00		23.41			22.41			23.55
Pork, leg ..	"		59.20			59.73		55.70			52.87			56.88
" " loin ..	"		59.80			59.67		55.27			52.63			56.84
" " chops ..	"		60.00			60.47		55.90			53.53			57.48

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.

(b) Delivered.

SECTION II.

Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities : Australia and Other Countries, 1954.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	AUSTRALIA.(a)								NEW ZEALAND.							
		Sydney.				Melbourne.				Wellington.				Christchurch.			
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread	2 lb.	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
Flour, ordinary	"	11.71	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.22	11.11	11.15	11.15	6.34	6.34	6.34	6.36	5.92	5.92	5.92	5.92
Tea	lb.	56.00	56.00	56.00	88.85	55.05	55.15	55.15	88.80	72.20	78.00	85.20	85.60	72.50	78.00	85.50	85.60
Jam, plum	1½ lb.	29.45	29.45	29.45	29.45	27.20	27.30	27.30	27.30	31.29	31.63	31.63	31.63	31.03	32.23	32.23	32.06
Sugar	lb.	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	8.83	8.83	8.83	9.00	8.83	8.83	8.83
Rice	"	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	11.90	11.95	11.95	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oatmeal	"	9.00	8.92	8.56	8.56	8.17	8.80	9.02	9.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.40	10.42	10.42	10.42	10.38
Raisins	"	33.10	33.10	32.70	32.40	31.89	31.25	30.39	29.50	617.70	617.70	616.60	616.60	617.90	617.80	617.00	616.60
Peaches, canned	30-oz. tin	38.65	38.65	38.65	38.45	33.50	33.55	33.05	33.50	45.40	46.90	47.10	47.00	44.60	44.60	46.00	47.00
Potatoes	7 lb.	39.02	35.93	31.29	31.23	28.58	28.00	20.75	17.50	33.04	27.23	28.00	26.67	23.31	23.31	17.71	16.52
Onions	lb.	9.20	8.30	8.75	9.00	5.40	5.50	5.92	7.00	8.50	7.50	8.33	12.67	4.50	3.67	8.67	9.00
Milk	quart	21.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	9.00
Butter	lb.	49.50	49.50	49.30	49.30	49.35	49.35	49.35	49.50	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
Cheese	"	33.55	33.55	33.50	33.50	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00	22.60	24.00	24.10	23.40	22.50	23.40	23.40	23.00
Eggs	dozen	69.00	72.00	60.00	60.00	67.40	67.00	61.00	60.90	63.60	75.60	57.60	46.00	58.00	71.00	53.00	41.00
Bacon	lb.	74.22	74.56	69.83	68.83	80.13	80.13	64.00	64.00	44.10	44.30	44.40	45.40	43.00	43.20	43.40	43.40
		(e)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(e)	(d)	(e)	(f)								
Beef, sirloin	"	40.89	41.57	40.99	43.97	38.33	38.90	38.90	38.90	30.33	31.00	31.67	34.67	28.67	28.67	29.83	30.50
" rib	"	25.93	25.67	25.90	27.43	33.32	33.60	33.52	33.63	26.67	27.33	27.67	31.33	26.67	26.67	28.00	28.67
" steak, rump	"	54.97	55.07	55.97	56.53	49.37	49.43	50.03	50.43	35.33	35.67	36.67	40.33	33.33	33.33	34.33	34.33
" sausages	"	19.20	19.20	19.90	19.90	19.84	20.00	20.15	19.79	15.67	15.67	15.67	17.33	14.00	14.00	14.33	14.33
Mutton, leg. . . .	"	21.67	21.03	21.75	20.60	23.86	23.95	24.14	23.71	27.67	28.00	29.33	31.33	25.67	25.67	26.67	27.00
" forequarter	"	14.37	13.42	15.35	14.44	14.43	14.86	15.14	14.57	18.33	18.67	19.33	20.33	14.67	14.67	15.00	15.00
" chops	"	23.87	22.50	24.67	23.57	23.19	23.43	23.29	22.95	27.00	27.67	28.67	29.67	24.33	24.33	26.00	26.00
Pork, leg	"	57.37	54.90	52.70	52.33	59.88	58.85	51.93	49.22	34.67	36.00	36.00	38.00	33.67	33.67	35.33	36.00
" chops	"	58.43	56.30	53.40	52.30	60.22	59.40	53.30	51.20	36.00	36.33	36.33	38.00	34.33	34.33	36.33	37.00

(a) In some cases the averages shown are price relatives.
for September quarter. (f) Average for December quarter.

(b) Sultanas.

(c) Average for March quarter.

(d) Average for June quarter.

(e) Average

SECTION II.—continued.

Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities : Australia and Other Countries, 1954—continued.

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	UNITED KINGDOM.	UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.								
			Capetown.					Witwatersrand.			
			Oct.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
			d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Bread	2 lb.	8.6	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
Flour, ordinary	"	12.5	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2
Tea	lb	76.4	77.5	87.0	90.1	94.4	77.3	86.3	88.8	94.9	94.9
Jam	1½ lb.	19.1	(a) 18.1	(a) 18.2	(a) 18.5	(a) 18.5	(a) 20.4	(a) 19.7	(a) 19.3	(a) 19.0	(a) 19.0
Sugar	lb.	7.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.7	5.7
Rice .. .. .	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oatmeal	"	..	11.5	11.2	11.5	10.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.0
Raisins	"	..	21.1	22.1	22.1	22.0	23.2	23.5	24.1	24.6	24.6
Peaches, canned	30-oz tin	..	29.4	29.9	30.4	30.2	31.2	31.6	32.2	32.4	32.4
Potatoes	7 lb.	14.0	27.3	28.0	32.9	28.0	22.4	25.9	28.0	26.6	26.6
Onions	lb.	5.2	4.9	5.6	5.8	5.3	3.7	3.8	4.8	3.8	3.8
Milk	quart.	14.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6
Butter	lb.	44.7	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0	40.0
Cheese	"	24.6	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0
Eggs	dozen.	56.6	38.8	44.9	33.9	33.8	38.6	44.0	33.7	33.1	33.1
Bacon	lb.	42.4	40.6	40.6	40.6	41.8	40.6	40.6	40.6	40.8	40.8
Beef, sirloin	"	44.8	23.0	23.0	23.0	23.0	25.5	25.6	25.6	25.6	25.6
" rib	"	34.3	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.2	15.1	15.2	15.2	15.2
" steak, rump	"	..	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	29.1	29.1	29.0	28.9	28.9
Mutton, leg	"	39.1	34.0	37.0	39.0	36.0	35.3	35.9	37.1	37.3	37.3
Pork, Leg	"	35.8	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.2	28.1	28.0	27.9	27.9
" chops	"	..	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	29.9	30.0	29.8	29.8

(a) Union jam.

SECTION II.—*continued.*Average Retail Prices of Food in Principal Cities : Australia and Other Countries, 1954—*continued.*

(Particulars extracted from Official Publications and Reports. Prices are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Item.	Unit.	CANADA.								UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.(a)			
		Ottawa.				Montreal.				Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.
		Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.(b)	Feb.	May.	Aug.	Nov.(b)				
		cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.	cents.
Bread ..	2 lb.	25.4	25.4	25.4	24.4	25.4	25.4	25.4	24.8	34.0	34.0	34.8	35.0
Flour, ordinary ..	"	16.4	16.4	16.2	15.0	16.0	16.0	15.8	15.2	21.4	21.5	21.4	21.5
Tea ..	lb.	102.6	104.0	109.0	105.8	97.6	101.4	102.6	108.0	132.8	135.6	138.0	141.6
Jam(c) ..	1½ lb.	36.6	36.3	36.1	34.2	37.7	37.5	37.6	36.1	..	..	..	..
Sugar ..	lb.	9.7	9.4	9.2	8.8	9.0	8.8	8.6	8.3	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5
Rice ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19.8	19.7	19.5	(d) 17.6
Oatmeal ..	"	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
Raisins ..	"	24.6	25.2	25.1	22.8	25.2	24.9	24.8	22.9	..	..	..	..
Peaches, canned ..	30-oz. tin	42.2	42.2	42.2	41.6	39.2	38.8	38.4	39.6	..	..	..	..
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	18.5	17.9	40.0	28.7	16.9	15.0	32.2	27.9	31.8	34.7	43.6	36.5
Onions ..	lb.	7.9	8.3	10.0	9.2	8.5	9.0	10.4	10.1	6.2	7.8	8.1	7.6
Milk ..	quart	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.5	20.0	20.0	20.0	19.9	23.3	22.2	22.8	23.3
Butter ..	lb.	66.6	63.1	61.1	62.3	65.3	61.3	60.5	62.4	79.1	69.6	69.2	71.4
Cheese ..	"	65.6	66.2	66.2	61.4	64.6	64.8	66.4	64.4	59.5	57.3	56.7	56.8
Eggs ..	dozen	60.8	55.2	66.7	64.8	60.6	54.5	60.8	63.5	65.6	53.8	61.7	58.1
Bacon ..	lb.	95.0	97.6	100.6	76.0	99.6	100.6	97.6	78.6	88.2	89.5	78.1	71.4
Beef, sirloin ..	"	71.9	71.5	78.1	78.6	88.2	86.2	94.0	91.4	..	..	..	..
" rib ..	"	..	..	..	74.7	..	..	..	78.0	70.1	70.0	69.2	71.8
" steak, rump ..	"	68.2	66.8	73.9	..	82.1	81.6	87.5	..	88.9	89.9	91.1	92.4
Pork chops ..	"	77.9	76.3	78.5	64.9	76.3	78.1	74.8	58.3	84.8	90.3	87.8	81.2

(a) Average for all towns.

(b) Includes chain food stores.

(c) Strawberry jam.

(d) Excludes long grain rice.

SECTION III.

Minimum Rates of Wage for Adult Male Workers in the Main Occupations in the Capital City of each State for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) at 31st December, 1954.

NOTE.—These rates are quoted from the latest Awards, Determinations or Agreements which were in force at 31st December, 1954. Where two or more Award, Determination or Agreement Rates are quoted, the reason for such is that different rates of wage have been fixed for various classes or grades of work. In certain cases of this nature the wages are shown in the form (say) 260s. 0d. to 280s. 0d., indicating that in addition to the two rates specified there are also certain intermediate rates in force. In other cases the rates are shown in the form 261s. 6d. and 276s. 6d., indicating that there are only two minimum or standard rates in force for different classes or grades of work, and that there are no intermediate minimum or standard rates. Except where otherwise specified by a numerical prefix in small type, the hours of labour constituting a full week's work are 40. (See footnote below.) Rates for some occupations have been revised and are not necessarily comparable with those quoted in previous issues.

GROUP I.—WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS AND TIMBER YARDS.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Coopering—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Coopers	318 0	323 0	298 0	306 0	325 1	..
Furniture—						
Cabinetmakers ..	293 0	302 6	286 0	298 6	298 0	309 6
Carpet Planners ..	293 0	302 6	..	298 6	291 6	309 6
Chairmakers ..	293 0	302 6	286 0	298 6	298 0	309 6
French Polishers ..	293 0	302 6	286 0	298 6	296 6	309 6
Upholsterers ..	293 0	302 6	286 0	298 6	296 6	309 6
Woodcarvers ..	293 0	302 6	286 0	298 6	296 6	309 6
Wood Machinists ..	293 0	265/ to 302/6	286 0	261/ to 298/6	290 0	272/ to 309/6
Mattress Making—Wire—						
Finishers	285 6	265 0	279 7	261 0	270 6	272 0
Makers	285/6 & 288/	302 6	279 7	298 6	290 0	309 6
Picture Framing—						
Stainers	277 0	275 0	279 0	271 0	} 276 6 {	282 0
Joiners	277 0	265 0	279 0	261 0		272 0
Mount Cutters ..	277 0	265 0	279 0	261 0		272 0
Sawmilling and Timber Yards—						
Box and Casemakers	273 0	265 0	250 6	261 0	264 6	272 0
Labourers	257 0	249 0	240 0	245 0	251 6	256 0
Machinists—						
Box Printing ..	261 6	253 6	..	249 6	..	260 6
Boults Carver ..	292 0	284 0	..	280 0	..	291 0
Nailing	265 0	257 0	250 6	253 0	..	264 0
Planing	274/6 & 292/	266/6 & 284/	..	262/6 & 291/6	268/6 to 291/6	273/6 & 291/
Shaping	292 0	284 0	..	280 0	296 6	291 0
Ordermen	276 6	268 6	255 6	264 6	276 6	275 6
Saw Doctors ..	308 0	300 0	290 6	296 0	312 6	307 0
Sawyers—						
Band or jig ..	274/ to 295/	266/ to 287/	250/6 & 265/6	262/ to 283/	276/6 & 289/6	273/ to 294/
Circular	275/ & 290/	267/ to 282/	..	263/ to 278/	276/6 & 287/6	274/ & 289/
Stackers	260/ & 267/	252/ & 259/	..	248/ & 255/	256/6 & 262/6	259/ & 266/
Wood Turners ..	292 0	284 0	249 10	280 0	..	291 0

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Agricultural Implements—						
Assemblers ..	288 0	260/ & 270/	263 0	256/ & 266/	262/6 & 268/6	..
Bull-dozeners ..	320 6	272 6	295 6	268 6	..	..
Drillers	278/ to 318/	262 6	253/ to 293/	258 6	321 6	..
Fitters	288/ & 318/	275/ to 285/	263/ to 293/	271/ to 281/	274/6 & 277/6	..
Labourers—Unskilled	252 0	244 0	227 0	240 0	246 6	..
Machinists—Metal	278/ to 318/	270/ to 310/	253/ to 293/	266/ to 306/	281/6 to 321/6	..
Painters—Brush	266 0	258 0	241 0	251 0	269 0	..
Spray	268 0	260 0	243 0	256 0	271 6	..
Patternmakers	340 6	332 6	315 6	328 6	344 0	..
Sheet Metal Workers	293/ & 318/	285/ & 310/	268/ & 293/	281/ & 306/	296/6 & 321/6	..
Strikers	266/ & 270/6	258/ & 262/6	241/ & 245/6	254/ & 258/6	270 6	..

Various numbers of hours constituting a full week's work.

(1) 34 hours. (2) 36 hours. (3) 37½ hours. (4) 38 hours. (5) 76 hours per fortnight. (6) 44 hours. (7) 60 hours. (8) 35 to 40 hours. (9) 48 hours.

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Boilermaking—						
Boilermakers ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0
Structural Steel Tradesmen ..	318 0	310 0	..	306 0	321 6	317 0
Cycles and Motor Cycles—						
Assemblers ..	262 6	267/6 & 279/	266/ & 281/6	263/6 & 275/6	271/6 & 274/	275/ & 289/6
Frame Builders ..	273 0	279/ & 284/6	281 6	272/ & 287/	296/6 & 314/	289 6
Repairers ..	273 0	279/ & 284/6		272/ & 287/	296/6 & 314/	289 6
Turners (Cycle) ..	..	309 0		..	321 6	294 0
Electrical Installation—						
Cable Jointers ..	301 0	302/6 & 307/6	295 0	298/6 & 303/6	321 6	309/6 & 314/6
Electrical Fitters ..	301 0	310 0	297 9	306 0	321 6	317 0
Electrical Mechanics ..	301 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0
Patrolmen ..	..	263/6 & 292/6	259 11	259/6 & 288/6	..	270/6 & 299/6
Linesmen ..	295 0	292 6	295 0	288 6	304 0	299 6
Other Adults ..	272 0	244 0	249 0	240 0	246 6	251 0
Electrical Supply—						
Armature Winders ..	345 0	324 0	297 9	306 0	321 6	317 0
Cable Jointers ..	349 0	301/6 & 306/6	295 0	298/6 & 303/6	321 6	309/6 & 314/6
Instrument Makers ..	379 0	332 0	297 9	331 0	321 6	342 0
Linesmen ..	321/ & 333/	291/6 to 309/	295 0	288 6	304 0	299/6 to 317/
Meter Testers ..	338 0	291/6 to 302/6	295 0	276/ & 286/	..	287/ & 297/
Patrolmen—Night ..	366 0	330/7 & 304/4a	268 0	324 4a	..	374 4a
Shift Electricians ..	365 0	324 0	311 9	306 0	..	317 0
Switchboard Attendants ..	..	302 6	249 0	284 6	..	295 6
Labourers ..	296 0	251 0	249 0	240 0	246 6	251 0
Electrical Trades—						
Electrical Fitters ..	318 0	310 0	297 9	306 0	321 6	317 0
Electrical Mechanics ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0
Radio Tradesmen ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0
Electroplating—						
Platers ..	265/ to 318/	257/ to 310/	295 0	253/ to 306/	274/ & 321/6	264/ to 317/
Polishers ..	283 0	275 0	264/ & 295/	271 0	286 6	282 0
Engineering—						
Blacksmiths ..	320 6	312 6	299 6	308 6	321 6	319 6
Borers and Slotters ..	293/ & 318/	285/ & 310/	295 0	281/ & 306/	296/6 & 321/6	292/ & 317/
Brassfinishers ..	293/ & 318/	285/ & 310/	295 0	281/ & 306/	321 6	292/ & 317/
Coppersmiths ..	320 6	312 6	296 6	308 6	321 6	319 6
Drillers—Radial ..	268/ & 310/6	260/ & 302/6	262 0	256/ & 298/6	271/6 & 314/	267/ & 309/6
Fitters ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0
Millers ..	293/ & 318/	285/ & 310/	295 0	281/ & 306/	296/6 & 321/6	292/ & 317/
Patternmakers ..	340 6	332 6	308 0	328 6	340 0	339 6
Planers—						
Rail and Plate Edge ..	293/ & 318/	285/ & 310/	262 0	281/ & 306/	296/6 & 321/6	292/ & 317/
Other ..	293/ & 318/	285/ & 310/	295 0	281/ & 306/	296/6 & 321/6	292/ & 317/
Shapers ..	293/ & 318/	285/ & 310/	295 0	281/ & 306/	296/6 & 321/6	292/ & 317/
Turners ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0
Foundry—						
Coremakers—Machine ..	271/ to 293/	263/ to 285/	295 0	259/ to 281/	270/6 to 296/6	270/ to 292/
„ Jobbing ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0
Dressers ..	271/ to 290/6	263/ to 282/6	261 6	259/ to 278/6	274/ & 279/	270/ to 289/6
Furnacemen ..	280/6 to 288/	272/6 to 280/	263/ to 281/6	268/6 to 276/	284/ to 291/6	279/6 to 287/
Moulders—Machine ..	271/ to 293/	263/ to 285/	273 0	259/ to 281/	270/6 to 296/6	270/ to 292/
„ Jobbing ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	321 6	317 0

(a) Includes allowance for continuous night work.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP II.—ENGINEERING, METAL WORKS, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Ironworking Assistants—						
Boilermakers' Assis-						
tants	266 0	258 0	257 0	254 0	270 6	265 0
Fitters' Assistants ..	266 0	258 0	257 0	254 0	270 6	265 0
Furnacemen's Assis-						
tants	266 0	258 0	246 10	254 0	269 6	265 0
Moulders' Assistants ..	266 0	258 0	258 6	254 0	270 6	265 0
Strikers	266/ & 270/6	258/ & 262/6	257 0	254/ & 258/6	270 6	265/ & 269/6
Sheet Metal Working—						
Canister Makers ..	273 0	265 0	260 0	261 0	272 6	272 0
Japanners—						
Coating or Brush-						
work	263 0	257 0	271 0	253 0	263 6	264 0
Ornamental	293 0	285 0	271 0	281 0	263 6	292 0
Solderers	265/ & 273/	257/ & 265/	..	253/ & 261/	265 5	264/ & 272/
Sheet Metal Workers—						
1st Class	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	301 6	317 0
2nd Class	293 0	285 0	271 0	281 0	285 6	292 0
Nailmaking—						
Case Wires	264 0	243 0	..	..	..	251 0
Labourers	264 0	243 0	..	..	..	251 0
Setters Up	282 0	273 0	..	..	..	270 0
Wire Working—						
Journeymen	263 0	279 0	238 0	..	257 0	..

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Aerated Water and						
Cordials—						
Bottlers	263 0	255 0	238 0	258 0	261 6	262 0
Drivers (Motor, 3-ton)	280 6	280 6	261 0	276 6	284 0	287 6
Packers	260 0	252 0	235 0	255 0	233 0	259 0
Wires	260 0	252 0	235 0	255 0	255 0	259 0
Baking (Bread)—						
Board Hands	303 0	333 4	..	288 6	309 6	310 0
Carters (One Horse) ..	283 0	286 6	252 0	283 0	279 0	285 0
Doughmen	315/6 & 318/6	342 6	282 6	298 6	314 6	310 0
Ovenmen	311 6	333 4	280 0	288 6	309 6	310 0
Singlehands	308 0	356 8	282 6	293 6	314 6	319 0
Baking (Biscuits and						
Cakes)—						
Adult Males	249 0	251 0	239 6	244 0	249 6	246 0
Bakers	275 6	273 0	250 0	261 0	271 6	291 0
Mixers	264/ & 268/	272 0	250 0	259 0	274 6	297 0
Brewing—						
Adult Males	281 0	271 0	246 0	281 0	279 6	280 0
Bottlers and Washers	281 0	271 0	246 0	281 0	279 6	280 0
Cellarmen	281/ & 286/	276 0	256 0	293 0	284 6	280 0
Drivers (Motor, 3-ton)	295 0	290 9	262 0	297 0	280 6	285 0
Towermen	286 0	276 0	246 0	293 0	284 6	308 0
Butchering (Carcass)—						
Chilling Room Hands	269/ to 274/	337 6	307 3	292/9 & 299/9	274 0	328 0
Labourers (Beef) ..	273 0	300 6	291 5	292 9	262 6	305 6
„ (Mutton)	265 0	300 6	298 1	292 9	262 6	305 6
Solders .. .. .	..	311 0	297 2	367 0	262 6	309 0
Slaughtermen (Beef)	353 0	372 6	(a)	367 0	291 6	361 0
„ (Mutton)	(a)	372 6	(a)	367 0	291 6	361 0

(a) Piece-work rates.

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Butchering (Retail)—						
Carters (Cash Cutting)	295 0	287 0	270 0	283 0	285 0	294 0
" (One Horse) ..	278 0	258 6	253 0	266 0	259 6	265 6
General Butchers ..	303 0	295 0	273 0	286 0	285 0	297 0
Shopmen ..	303 0	295 0	273 0	286 0	285 0	297 0
Smallgoodsmen ..	303 0	295 0	278 0	291 0	285 0	302 0
Cold Storage and Ice—						
Chamber Hands ..	277/ & 288/	337 6	241 6	263 0	274 0	295 9
Fullers and Stackers	282 6	305 6	244 9	263 0	271 6	..
Confectionery—						
Confectioners, Grade I.	285 0	277 0	247 6	269 0	278 6	284 0
Storemen ..	261 0	264 0	240 0	257 0	274 0	268 0
Ham and Bacon Curing—						
Curers—First Hand ..	308 0	335 6	296 7	311 6	291 6	330 0
Cutters Up—First Hand	288 0	335 6	290 2	311 6	282 6	330 0
Ham Baggers ..	..	308 0	281 6	284 0	..	302 6
Lardmen ..	278 0	308/ to 320/	281 6	284/ to 296/	..	302 6
Rollers and Trimmers	288 0	320 0	275 0	296 0	270/ & 282/6	314 6
Scalders ..	318 0	320 0	286 6	296 0	282 6	314 6
Slaughtermen ..	318 0	335 6	298 11	311 6	291 6	361 0
Smallgoodsmen—First Hand ..	298 0	326 9	296 7	302 9	291 6	321 0
Smokers—First Hand	288 0	320 0	287 5	296 0	..	314 0
Jam Making and Preserving—						
Adult Males ..	258 0	258 0	242 6	258 0	258 6	258 0
Solderers ..	267 0	267 0	..	267 0	262 6	267 0
Malting—						
Maltsters ..	283 0	276 0	246 0	293 0	279 6	285 0
Milling—Condiments—						
Grinders ..	295 6	269 0	..	..	..	..
Mixers or Blenders ..	295 6	269 0	236 6	..	269 0	..
Stone Dressers ..	295 6	289 0	..	..	..	..
Milling—Flour—						
Millers—Head ..	320 0	320 0	285 0	320 0	320 0	310/9 & 325/
" Shift ..	295/ to 320/	295/ to 320/	270/ to 279/	295/ to 320/	295/ to 320/	301/3 to 309/
Packermen ..	280 0	280 0	255 6	280 0	280 0	284 9
Purifiers ..	283 0	283 0	255 6	283 0	283 0	274 0
Silkmen ..	283 0	283 0	255 6	283 0	283 0	279 9
Storemen—Head ..	285/ & 290/	285/ & 290/	255/6 & 261/	285/ & 290/	285/ & 290/	283 6
Topmen ..	283 0	283 0	258 0	283 0	283 0	279 9
Truckers and Others ..	263 0	263 0	253 0	263 0	283 0	274 0
Milling—Oatmeal—						
Kilnmen ..	273 0	264 6	..	..	..	274/ & 278/3
Millers—Head ..	295 6	289 0	..	..	..	310 9
Pastrycooking—						
Carters ..	268 6	258 6	247 0	254 6	270 0	265 6
Pastrycooks ..	289 6	293 0	260/6 & 268/	288 6	281/ & 287/6	300 0

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Bootmaking—						
Bootmakers ..	280 0	280 0	280 0	280 0	272 0	280 0
Tailoring—Order—						
Cutters ..	368 0	319 0	319 0	319 0	319 0	319 0
Pressers ..	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0
Tailors ..	290 0	290 0	290 0	290 0	290 0	290 0
Trimmers ..	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Tailoring—Ready-made—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Cutters	294 0	294 0	294 0	294 0	294 0	294 0
Folders	264 0	264 0	264 0	264 0	264 0	264 0
Machinists	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0
Pressers	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0
Tailors	290 0	290 0	290 0	290 0	290 0	290 0
Trimmers	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0	283 0
Textile-Working—Woollen Mills—						
Carders	265 0	265 0	243 0	258 0	265 0	265 0
Dyehousemen	270 0	270 0	248 0	263 0	270 0	270 0
Labourers—General	241 0	241 0	239 0	234 0	241 0	241 0
Pattern Weavers	276 0	276 0	..	273 0	276 0	276 0
Scourers (Wool)	270/ & 277/6	270/ & 277/6	245/ & 260/	263/ & 270/6	270/ & 277/6	270/ & 277/6
Spinners	265 0	265 0	243/ & 250/	258 0	265 0	265 0
Loom Tuners	258/ to 288/	258/ to 288/	241/ to 268/	251/ to 281/	258/ to 288/	258/ to 288/

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Bookbinding—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Bookbinders	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
Finishers	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
Marblers	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
Paper Rulers	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
Engraving (Photo)(a)—						
Engravers	303 0	312 9	304 3	291 0	306 6	302 0
Etchers—Half-tone	307 6	322 9	314 3	295 6	306 6	306 6
Etchers—Line	303 0	312 9	304 3	291 0	301 6	302 0
Camera Operators	307 6	322 9	314 3	295 6	306 6	306 6
Photo Imposers	303 0	312 9	304 3	291 0	301 6	..
Routers	301 0	309 0	300 6	289 0	292 6	300 0
Lithographing—						
Printers	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
Rotary Machinists	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
Stone Polishers	271 0	263 0	246 0	259 0	264 0	270 0
Printing (Daily Newspapers)—						
Compositors (Machine)						
Day Work	377/6 to 395/	4372 6	336/6 & 348/	4358 6	343 7	369 6
Night Work	397/6 to 415/	4397 6	346/6 & 368/	4383 6	358 7	394 6
Linotype Attendants—						
Day Work	321/6 to 326/6	322/6 & 327/6	295/ & 299/	4310 0	295 11	321 0
Night Work	341/6 to 346/6	4347/6 & 352/6	305/ & 319/	4335 0	310 11	346 0
Linotype Operators—						
Day Work	377/6 to 395/	4372 6	320/ & 331/6	4323 0	343 7	334 0
Night Work	397/6 to 415/	4397 6	330/ & 351/6	4348 0	358 7	359 0
Machinists (First Hand)—						
Day Work	341/6 to 349/	357 6	328/6 & 340/	4343 6	330 10	354 6
Night Work	361/6 to 369/	4382 6	338/6 & 360/	4368 6	345 10	379 6
Publishing Hands—						
Day Work	316/6 to 326/6	309/ & 311/6	295/ & 299/	4304 0	298 2	315 0
Night Work	336/6 to 346/6	4334/ & 336/6	305/ & 319/	4329 0	313 2	340 0
Readers—						
Day Work	349/6 to 359/6	358 0	320/ & 331/6	4336 0	330 10	347 0
Night Work	369/6 to 379/6	4383 0	330/ & 351/6	4361 0	345 10	372 0
Readers' Assistants—						
Day Work	316/6 to 323/6	330 6	295/ & 306/6	4301 0	295 11	312 0
Night Work	336/6 to 343/6	4355 6	305/ & 326/6	4326 0	310 11	337 0
Stereotypers (First Class)—						
Day Work	341/6 to 349/	353 0	315/ & 326/6	4320 0	319 0	331 0
Night Work	361/6 to 369/	4378 0	325/ & 346/6	4345 0	334 0	356 0

(a) Other than in newspaper offices.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP V.—BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Printing (Job Offices)—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Compositors ..	318/ to 340/6	310/ to 332 6	293/ to 315/6	306/ to 328/6	311/ to 336/ 6	317/ to 330/6
Electrotypers ..	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
General Hands ..	259 0	251 0	234 0	247 0	252 0	258 0
Linotype Operators ..	340 6	332 6	315 6	328 6	333 6	339 6
Machinists ..	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0
Monotype Operators ..	340 6	332 6	315 6	328 0	333 6	339 6
Monotype Casting ..						
Machinists ..	318 0	310 0	293 6	306 0	311 0	317 0
Readers ..	325 6	317 6	300 6	313 6	318 6	324 6
Stereotypers ..	318 0	310 0	293 0	306 0	311 0	317 0

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Brickmaking—						
Burners ..	273/ & 279/	275 0	243 0	267 6	273 6	282 9
Drivers, Motor (5 tons) ..	288 0	290 0	265 0	286 0	288 6	297 0
Drawers ..	295 6	274/6 to 277 0	240 6	272 6	276 6	282 9
Labourers ..	270 6	264 0	235 8	255 0	265 6	280 0
Machinemen ..	289 6	271 6	240 6	266 0	265 6	280 0
Panmen ..	277/6 & 292/6	267/ & 271/6	240 6	273/6 & 276/6	265 6	280 0
Pitmen ..	290 0	289/6 & 295/6	237 6	280 0	265 6	280 0
Setters ..	295 6	274/6 & 287/	239 0	272 6	276 6	285/6 & 290/6
Wheelers ..	287 0	269 0	237 6	261 0	276 6	280 0
Brushmaking—						
Bass Broom Drawers ..	280 6	274 0	(a)	276 0	272 6	
Finishers ..	280 6	274 0	(a)	276 0	272 6	
Machinists—Boring ..	260 6	259 0	(a)	276 0	272 6	
Paint Brush Makers ..	288 0	280 3	(a)	276 0		
Candle Making—						
Acidifiers ..		281 6				
General Hands ..	267 0	257 0			257 6	
Glycerine Hand ..	279 3	281 6		277 6	269 0	
Moulders ..	279 3	267 6			267 6	
Stillmen ..	284 6	281 6				
Cardboard Box Making—						
Gullotine and other ..						
Cutters ..	274/6 to 296/9	266/6 to 288/9	256/6 & 263/6	262/6 to 284/9	267/6 to 289/9	276/3 to 295/9
Other Adults ..	259 0	251 0	241 0	247 0	252 0	258 0
Vehicle Building—						
Bodymakers, 1st Class ..	318 0	310 0	295 0	306 0	301 6	317 0
Labourers ..	246 0	238 0	242 6	234 0	246 6	245 0
Painters ..	271/6 to 310/	263/6 to 302/	289 6	259/6 to 298/	296 6	270/6 to 309/6
Smiths ..	320 6	312 6	296 6	308 6	301 6	319 6
Trimmers ..	293/ & 310/6	285/ & 302/6	289 6	281/ & 298/6	296 6	292/ & 309/6
Wheelmaking Machinists ..	318 0	310 0	289 6	306 0	296 6	317 0
Wheelwrights ..	318 0	310 0	289 6	306 0	296 6	317 0
Fellmongering—						
Bate Hands ..	268 0	261 0	245 0	257 0	261 6	264 0
Green Hands ..	268 0	261 0	245 0	257 0	261/6 & 265/3	264 0
Limepit Men ..	268 0	261 0	245 0	257 0	261 6	264 0
Machinists ..	268/ to 276/6	261/ to 269/6	245/ to 253/6	257/ to 265/6	261/6 to 265/3	264/ to 272/6
Soakhole Men ..	271 0	264 0	248 0	260 0	265 3	267 0
Wool Sorters ..	286/6 & 306/6	279/6 & 299/6	263/6 & 283/6	275/6 & 295/6	277 9	282/6 & 302/6

(a) Piece-work rates.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Gas Making and Supply—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Coke Trimmers ..	271 0	255 0	..	255 0	263 6	263 0
Gas Fitters ..	332 0	314 6	299 9	320 0	302 6	309 6
Labourers ..	238 0	249 0	241 0	246 0	263 6	257 0
Mainlayers ..	289 6	276 6	259 6	279 6	283 6	234 6
Metermakers ..	293 0	304 0	295 0	312/ to 314/10	296/6 & 301/6	317 0
Meter Testers ..	272/ & 294/	284 0	264 0	282 0	304 6	287 0
Service Layers ..	299 0	276 6	259 6	279 6	283 6	284 6
Stokers ..	289 0	274/ & 286/6	268 0	277 0	285 6	282/ & 294/
Glassfounding—						
Furnacemen ..	284 6	270/6 to 285/6	253/6 to 268/6	266/6 to 281/6	271/6 to 286/6	277/6 to 292/6
Labourers ..	256 0	254 0	237 0	250 0	255 0	261 0
Lehr Attendants ..	266 0	262 0	245 0	258 0	263 0	269 0
Sorters ..	267 0	259/6 & 266/	242/6 & 249/	255/6 & 262/	260/6 & 267/	266/6 & 273/
Glass Working and Glazing						
Bevellers ..	300 6	290 0	290 6	286 0	288 0	297 0
Cutters and Glaziers..	293 0	290 0	290 6	286 0	283/6 & 289/6	297 0
Lead Light Glaziers ..	293 0	290 0	299 9	286 0	288 0	297 0
Silverers ..	300 6	290 0	290 6	286 0	288 0	297 0
Jewellery, Clock and Watch Making—						
Chainmakers ..	293 0	309 0	267 6	283 6	294 0	..
Engravers ..	301 0	302 0	267/6 & 273/	285 6	294 0	..
Mounters ..	276/ to 301/	284/ to 324/	267/6 & 273/	291 6	294 0	..
Setters ..	293/ to 301/	296/6 to 324/	..	291 6	294 0	..
Watch and Clock Makers and Repairers	308 0	263/ & 289/	280 6	289/ & 291/6	296 6	277/ & 307/
Masonry—Marble and Stone—						
Carvers ..	335 4	304 9	306 8	305 0	298 6	..
Machinists—						
Carborundum ..	322 0	274/6 & 285/6	300 0	265/6 & 276/	271 6	..
Other ..	322 0	274/6 & 285/6	300 0	265/6 & 276/	269 6	..
Masons ..	322 0	293 6	300 0	284 0	298 6	287 0
Paper Bag Making—						
Guillotine Cutters ..	286 9	278 9	261 9	274 9	279 9	285 9
Machinists ..	286/9 & 301/9	278/9 & 293/9	261/9 & 276/9	274/9 & 289/9	279/9 & 294/9	285/9 & 300/9
Paper Making—						
Beatermen ..	333 0	323/ & 325/	..	327 0	..	338 6
Breakermen ..	295 6	287 6	..	283 6	..	..
Guillotine Men ..	299 6	291 6	..	..	..	298 0
Machinemen ..	345 6	331/6 & 346/	246 6	342 0	..	338/6 to 369/
Ragboltermen ..	294 6	285 0	..	..	..	..
Other Adults ..	280 0	272 0	243 6	270 0	..	271 0
Potteries—General—						
Burners—Head ..	276 0	265 0	251 6	260/6 & 263/6	271 6	278 0
Hollow-ware Pressers	289 9	258 0	243 0	253 0	..	288 0
Sanitary Pressers ..	289 9	259 0	243 0	253 0	260/ & 268/	288 0
Throwers—1st Class ..	290/9 & 294/	253/ to 267/	254 0	272/ & 287/	..	291 0
Potteries—Pipemaking—						
Burners—Head ..	279 0	265 0	250 6	272 6	274 0	278 0
Drawers ..	..	256 0	..	262 6	270 6	..
Moulders ..	283 6	..	..	272 6	273 0	275 6
Mould Makers ..	..	267 0	243 0	..	270 6	..
Setters ..	280 6	262 0	239 0	268/6 & 272/6	270 6	278 0
Quarrying—						
Borers—Hand or Machine ..	288/11 & 294/5	279 0	240 2	..	..	271 0
Dressers ..	304 2	289 6	243 10	..	..	..
Facemen ..	293 6	283 6	..	..	..	271 0
Hammermen ..	288 11	294 6	240 2	274 0	260 0	271 0
Crusher Feeders ..	295 4	286 6	235/7 & 239/8	267 6	268 6	277 0
Quarrymen ..	304 2	..	243 10	..	..	278 6

(a) Paper board.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP VI.—OTHER MANUFACTURING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Rubber Working—						
Calendar Hands ..	298/ & 310/6	290/ & 302/6	249 0	281 0	291/ & 303/6	..
Cycle Tyre Makers ..	260 0	252 0	251 0	..	253 0	270 6
Dough Mixers ..	260 0	252 0	242 6	252 6	253 0	..
Hosemakers ..	262/ to 275/6	254/ to 267/6	242 6	..	255/ to 268/6	..
Mechanical Lathe						
Hands ..	262/ & 269/ 260/ to	254/ & 261/ 252/ to	242 6 242 6	254 6 264 0	255/ & 262/ 253/ to	....
Mill Hands ..	275/6	267/6	..	..	268/6	..
Spreaders ..	263/ & 275/6	255/ & 267/6	242/6 & 245/	..	256/ & 268/6	..
Surgical, Packing, and other Makers ..	262/ & 280/6	254/ & 272/6	238/ & 242/6	..	255/ & 273/6	..
Tyre Moulders ..	260/ & 269/	252/ & 261/	251 0	..	253/ & 262/	270 6
Leather and Canvas Work—						
Canvas Workers ..	283 0	275 0	258 0	271 0	282 6	282 0
Leather Workers ..	298 0	290 0	273 0	286 0	282 6	297 0
Sailmaking—						
Sailmakers ..	295 0	287 0	270 0	283 0	..	294 0
Shipbuilding(a)—						
Carpenters and Joiners	313 0	313 0	313 0	313 0	313 0	313 0
Dockers ..	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/
Painters ..	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/	259/ to 274/
Shipwrights ..	296 6	296 6	296 6	296 6	296 6	296 6
Soap Making—						
General Hands ..	267 0	257 0	248 6	253 0 260/ & 266/	257 6	253 0
Mixers ..	274/ to 279/3	265/ to 277/6			265 0	253 0
Soap Makers ..	305 0	289 0			262 0	273 0
Tanning and Currying—						
Beamsmen ..	290 6	282 6	265 6	278 6	283 6	289 6
Curriers ..	306 6	298 6	281 6	294 6	299 6	305 6
Japanners or Enam- ellers ..	290 0	282 0	265 0	278 0	283 0	289 0
Limemen ..	288 6	280 6	263 6	276 6	281 6	287 6
Machinists—						
Fleshing ..	295 6	287 6	270 6	283 6	288 6	294 6
Scouring ..	281 6	273 6	256 6	269 6	274 6	280 6
Splitting ..	297/6 to 304/6	289/6 to 296/6	272/6 to 279/6	285/6 to 292/6	290/6 to 297/6	296/6 to 303/6
Unhairing ..	290 6	282 6	265 6	278 6	283 6	289 6
Rollers and Strikers ..	289/6 & 291/6	281/ & 283/6	264/ & 266/6	277/ & 279/6	282/ & 284/6	288/ & 290/6
Tablemen ..	285/6 to 291/6	277/6 to 283/6	260/6 to 266/6	273/6 to 279/6	278/6 to 284/6	284/6 to 290/6
Tent and Tarpaulin Making—						
Cutters ..	283 0	275 0	258 0	271 0	..	282 0
Machinists ..	283 0	275 0	258 0	271 0	260 6	282 0
Sewers—Hand ..	283 0	275 0	258 0	271 0	260 6	282 0
Tent Makers ..	283 0	275 0	258 0	271 0	260 0	282 0

(a) Permanent rates.

GROUP VII.—BUILDING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Building(a)—						
Bricklayers—						
Sewer and Tunnel ..	346 8	355 10	314 0	346 8	340 5	352 6
Surface ..	333 4	345 0	306 6	341 8	327 1	352 6
Builders' Labourers ..	295 10	282 6	276 6	277 6	276 6	259 2
Carpenters ..	338 4	345 10	310 3	342 6	330 1	355 6
Lathers ..	338 4	345 10	307 3	342 6	330 1	352 6
Metal Cellars ..	338 4	345 10	310 3	342 6	330 1	355 6
Masons ..	322 0	315 0	300 0	341 9	325 1	352 6
Painters, Paperhangers	321 8	317 6	306 6	325 3	326 4	352 6
Signwriters ..	334 2	317 6	308 0	325 3	326 4	352 6

(a) Rates are weekly equivalents of hourly rates. They include allowances for leave, holidays, following the job, etc.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP VII.—BUILDING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
<i>Building(a)—continued.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Plasterers—						
Sewer or Tunnel ..	344 2	317 2	315/ & 318/9	348 4	341 11	352 6
Surface ..	330 10	320 0	307 6	343 4	328 7	352 6
Plumbers, Gasfitters ..	330 9	345 0	307 6	308 0	329 7	325 0
Slaters ..	330 0	345 0	306 6	..	292 6	..
Tilers (Roof) ..	330 0	345 0	306 6	284 6	292 6	..
Tuckpointers ..	333 4	345 0	306 6	341 8	..	352 6
<i>Water Supply and Sewerage—</i>						
Concrete Workers ..	289/11 to 299/1	264/ & 271/6	251/ to 270/6	249/ & 252/	258/6 to 270/6	266/ & 269/
Labourers ..	283/9 to 294/6	259 0	242/ to 257/11	231 0	252 6	257 0
Miners—Sewer ..	^a 295/10 to 314/9	269/ & 274/	270/6 & 275/6	259 0	260/ to 276/6	266/ & 278/
Pipe-Jointers and Setters ..	294/6 & 299/9	274 0	247 6	252/ to 264/	270/6 & 281/6	269 0

(a) See note at foot of previous page.

GROUP VIII.—MINING.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
<i>Coal-mining—</i>						
Blacksmiths ..	301 3	294 6	276/3 to 292/3	..	318 0	300 3
Bracemen ..	297 1	277 6	272/1 to 288/1	..	..	282 5
Carpenters ..	305 0	296 0	280/ to 296/	..	..	304 0
Deputies ..	345 8	331 8	320/8 to 336/8	..	^a 381 5	321 6
Engine Drivers—						
Locomotive ..	305/ & 351/6	..	302/6 to 318/6	..	..	292/4 & 326/
Stationary ..	292/6 to 322/6	289/1 & 292/1	268/ to 294/5	..	^a 292/9 & 298/3	284/5 to 299/
Winding ..	357 0	341 0	302/ to 323/	..	^a 326 8	331 0
Labourers—						
Surface ..	282 6	276/7 to 281/3	258/1 to 274/1	..	^a 278 2	282 5
Underground ..	285 5	274/7 to 282/1	258/1 to 274/1	..	^a 287 11	282 5
Miners—						
Machine ..	(a)304/7 & 326/3	(b)	301/3 to 317/3	..	^a 303 7 to 338/10	326 7
Manual—Dry Work	(a) 304 7	(a) 287 6	(a)279 7 to 295/6	..	^a 303 7	..
Platmen or Banksmen	282/6 & 302/1	291 3	..	..	..	..
Shiftmen—						
Dry Work ..	304 7	291 3	279/7 to 295/7	..	^a 303 7	296 2
Wet Work ..	317 1	303 9	292/1 to 308/1	..	..	308 8
Shotfirers ..	335/1 & 340/8	326 1	310/1 to 326/1	..	^a 328 6	334 1
Timbermen ..	304 7	291 3	279/7 to 295/7	..	^a 303 7	296 2
Weighmen ..	286 8	288 7	304 0	..	^a 313 5	291 2
Whealers ..	286/3 & 288/9	282/11 & 292/6	261/6 to 277/6	..	^a 291 2	285 3
<i>Gold and Other Mining (except Coal)—</i>					(c)	
Battery Feeders ..	271/ to 283/	248/ & 261/	241/ 4	264 0	296 8	259/ to 270/
Bracemen ..	273/ to 279/	258/ & 271/	246/10 & 252/6	257 0	^a 301 8	269/ to 280/

(a) Piece-work rates normally operate for these occupations but minimum weekly wage rates are as shown.

(b) Piece-work rates.

(c) Excludes district allowances.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP VIII.—MINING—continued.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Gold and Other Mining (except Coal)—contd.	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Engine Drivers—Stationary ..	255/ to 291/	265/ to 279/6	234/ to 284/	..	(a) 307/11 to 317/1	..
Winding and Loco.	261/ to 300/	284/6 to 293/6	279/ to 284/	260 0	320/ to 358/4	271/ to 282/
Firemen ..	250/6 to 267/	260/ to 268/	262 0	..	298/4 to 307/1	..
Labourers, ground ..	266/ to 272/	253/ to 266/	241 4	254 0	3292 11	264/ to 275/
Miners—Machine ..	286/ to 301/	264/ to 297/	246/10 & 255/	..	3307/11 to 319/2	275/ to 306/
Manual—Dry Work ..	283/ to 292/	272/ to 291/	246 10	266/ & 271/	3301/8 to 311/8	283/ to 300/
Wet Work ..	290/6 to 299/6	284/6 to 303/6	254 4	273/6 & 278/6	3310/8 to 320/8	295/6 to 312/6
Platmen ..	273/ to 279/	258/ to 271/	246 10	259 0	3301 8	269/ to 280/
Shaft Sinkers—Dry Work ..	286/ to 298/	278/ to 297/	246 10	271 0	3311/8 to 319/2	280/ to 306/
Wet Work ..	293/6 to 305/6	290/6 to 309/6	254 4	278 6	3320/8 to 328/2	301/6 to 318/6
Timbermen ..	284/ to 295/	275/ to 293/	255 0	267/ & 272/	3311/8 to 319/2	286/ to 302/

(a) Excludes district allowances.

GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Railways—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Engine Drivers (Loco.)—Railmotor ..	317/ to 354/6	309/ to 346/6	321 1	305/ to 342/6	296/6 to 330/6	317/ to 354/6
Steam, Diesel Electric or Electric ..	365/ & 377/	355/ & 370/	321 1	380 0	296/6 to 330/6	392 0
Express, Mail or Passenger ..	392 0	385 0	321 1	380 0	339 6	392 0
Shunting Engine ..	317/ & 332/	302/6 & 311/6	296/5 & 304/1	297/6 & 306/6	290/6 & 297/	309/6 & 318/6
Firemen—Ordinary ..	279/6 & 294/6	272/6 & 287/6	266 4	267/6 & 282/6	270/6 to 289/6	279/6 & 294/6
Express, Mail or Passenger ..	302 0	295 0	266 4	290 0	289 6	302 0
Shunting Engine ..	266/ to 275/6	252/6 to 267/6	262 6	248/6 to 266/6	264/6 to 273/6	260/6 to 278/6
Guards—1st Class ..	302/ to 320/	328 0	306 9	323 0	323 6	} 298/ to 320/
2nd Class ..	296 0	291/ to 313/	299 10	297/6 & 308/6	314 0	
3rd Class, etc. ..	..	..	288 0	281/ & 290/	299 0	} 263/6 to 302/
Porters ..	259/ to 268/	252/6 to 283/	250/10 & 254/9	247/ & 271/	246/6 to 268/	
Shunters—Head ..	354/6 to 380/	..	298/9 to 314/7	..	299/ to 313/6	..
Leading ..	312/6 to 338/6	305/6 to 342/6	269 7	300/6 & 307/6	..	311/ & 317/
Ordinary ..	275/ to 296/	268/ to 288/	266 7	290 0	280/ & 284/	275/ to 295/
Signalmen—Special ..	359 6	350 6	297/4 & 310/2	313/ & 338/	334 6	..
1st Class ..	358 6	324 0	292 4	308 0	306 0	} 284/ to 305/
2nd Class ..	343 6	307 0	283 6	293 0	294 6	
3rd Class ..	332 0	294 0	276 6	278 0	280 0	
4th Class, etc. ..	274/6 to 315/	282 0	270 9	271 0	263 6	

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP IX.—RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY TRANSPORT—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Tramways (Electric)—						
Car Washers or						
Cleaners ..	264 0	257 0	239 7	248/ & 251/	254 6	261 0
Conductors—						
1st Year ..	264 0	257 0	238/6 & 241/6	253 6	258/6 & 273/6	263 0
2nd Year ..	270 0	263 0	241/6 & 245/	268 6	273 6	274 6
3rd Year, etc. ..	270 0	263 0	245/ & 251/	268 6	273 6	274 6
Labourers ..	258 6	251 0	242 0	246/ & 249/	246 6	257 0
Track Repairers ..	266/ & 269/	260 0	236/ to 248 8	251/ & 254/	261 6	265 0
Motormen—						
1st Year ..	273 0	257 0	238 6 & 241/6	276 0	273 6	282 0
2nd Year ..	273 0	263 0	241/6 & 245/	276 0	273 6	282 0
3rd Year, etc. ..	273 0	263 0	245/ & 251/	276 0	273 6	282 0
Overhead Linesmen—						
Leading ..	343 0	306/6 to 336/6	310 0	313 6	319/ & 349/	332 0
Other ..	320 6	291 6	295 0	298 6	304 0	317 0
Pitmen ..	290 6	271 0	254/ & 257/	258/ to 265/	273 6	277 0
Signalmen ..	288/ & 297/	266/ & 274/	247/ & 251/	278 6	..	..
Track Cleaners ..	255 6	257 0	235 0	246/ & 249/	256/6 & 270/6	261 0

GROUP X.—OTHER TRANSPORT.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Carrying—Merchandise—						
Carters—						
One Horse ..	274 0	258 6	248 0	254 6	270 0	265 6
Two Horses ..	279 0	271 0	253 0	267 0	278 0	278 0
Drivers of Motor Vehicles—						
25 cwt. or less ..	276 c(a)	271 0	250 c(a)	267 0	278 0	278 0
Over 25 cwt. to 3 tons ..	281/ & 286/ (b)	280 6	254/ & 258/ (b)	276 6	284 0	287 6
Over 3 tons but under 6 tons ..	290/ to 298/	290 0	262/ & 266/	286 0	288 6	297 0
Motor Driver's Assistants ..	276 0	249 0	243 0	245 0	260 6	256 0
Loaders ..	289 6	262 0	243 0	258 0	260 6	269 0
Stablemen ..	273 6	253 0	241 0	249 0	264 6	260 0
Sanitary Carters (3 tons) ..	347 0	300 6	262 6	276 6	299 0	307 6
Lift Attendants—						
Passenger ..	264 0	264 0	236/ & 238/	251 6	257 0	..

(a) 20 cwt. or less.

(b) Over 20 cwt. to 3 tons.

SECTION III.—continued.

GROUP XI.—SHIPPING, WHARF LABOUR, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Waterside Working—						
Wharf Labourers per hour <i>a</i>	8 10	8 10	8/10 to 9/3	8 10	8 10	8 10
Passenger Vessels—Interstate <i>b</i>—			£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	
Bakers per month			51/13/6	to	58/6/0(c)	
Barmen "			51/13/6(d)			
Butchers "			52/16/0	to	57/1/0(c)	
Cooks—						
Chief "			60/18/6	&	63/1/0(c)	
Second "			56/1/0	&	50/18/6(c)	
Third "			51/13/6(c)			
Ships "			54/18/6(c)			
Pantrymen "			52/16/0	&	53/6/0(c)	
Scullerymen "			50/6/0(b)			
Stewards—						
Chief Saloon "			64/11/0	to	72/11/0(d)	
Second "			55/11/0(d)			
Second Saloon "			53/18/6(d)			
Fore Cabin "			53/6/0(d)			
Bedroom and "						
Other "			51/1/0	to	52/3/6(d)	
All Vessels—Interstate <i>c</i>—						
A.B. Seamen per month				54/8/6		
Boatswains "				55/8/6		
Donkeymen "				56/8/6		
Firemen "				55/8/6		
Greasers "				55/8/6		
Lamp Trimmers "				55/8/6		
Fuel Trimmers "				53/8/6		
Marine Engineers <i>b e f</i>—		<i>Vessels (Steam)</i>		<i>Vessels (Steam)</i>		
Chief per month		100 N.H.P. and under.		Over 100 N.H.P.		
Second "		71/19/0 to 75/19/0		78/2/0 to 105/13/0		
Third "		67/0/0		67/0/0 to 78/0/0		
Fourth "		63/3/0		63/3/0 to 70/8/0		
Fifth and under "		..		59/11/6 to 66/16/0		
		..		58/19/6		
Merchant Service <i>b f g</i>—		<i>Seagoing</i>		<i>Seagoing</i>		
Masters per month		Passenger Vessels.		Cargo Vessels.		
Officers—		Under 125 tons. Over 10,000 tons.		Under 60 tons. Over 10,000 tons.		
Chief "		72/14/6 153/10/0		66/6/6 121/12/0		
Second "		64/15/6 78/0/0		61/15/6 73/10/0		
Third "		61/13/6 72/18/0		59/3/6 69/8/0		
4th, 5th and "		.. 67/6/0		.. 64/6/0		
6th "		.. 58/19/6		.. 58/19/6		

(a) Rates of wage quoted are for casuals on other than special cargo. (b) Rates of wage quoted are in addition to victualling and accommodation valued at £8 11s. per month. (c) Not more than 8 hours per day. (d) Not more than 8 hours per day within a spread of 15 consecutive hours when at sea, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in terminal ports and between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. in intermediate ports. (e) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified according to nominal horse-power of vessels. (f) Ordinary lengths of duty in a day at sea or in port or partly at sea and partly in port shall be 8 hours. (g) Minimum rates under the Commonwealth Award are classified for interstate passenger and cargo vessels within a State according to tonnage; the lowest and highest classes for interstate passenger and cargo vessels are given here.

GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Farming—						
Harvesters	£373 0	..	..	..	..	£259 0
Milkers	£268 0	£264 0	..	..	..	£259 0
Chaffcutting—						
Feeders (Travelling plant)	283 0	264 6	..	250 0	289 6	£366 0
Feeders (Stationary mill)	283 0	258 6	..	250 0	289 6	£366 0

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP XII.—PASTORAL, AGRICULTURAL, ETC.—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tasmania.
Gardening—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Gardeners	288 0	262 0	239 0	253 0	260 6	266 0
Gardeners' Labourers ..	278 0	252 0	231 6	245 0	254 6	260 0
Nurserymen	293 0	259/6 & 270/	239 0	264 0	264 6	282 0
Nurserymen's Labourers ..	278 0	243 0	231 6	245 0	254 6	254 0
Pastoral Workers(a)—						
Cooks	584 10	584 10	615/10 & 636/9	584 10	576 4	584 10
Shearers—						
Hand .. per 100	157 0	157 0	149 6	157 0	143 0	156/6
Machine	146 0	146 0	149 6	146 0	133 0	145/6
Shed Hands	408 8	408 8	437 11	408 8	431 6	408 8
Wool Pressers	441 10	441 10	497 4	441 10	484 0	441 10
Rural Workers—						
Fruit Harvesters	⁶ 245/ to 254/	⁶ 243/ to 246/	..	⁶ 241/ to 246/	..	⁶ 250/ & 251/

(a) Shearers' and woolpressers' hours are 40 per week; shed hands' hours are the same as shearers', with such additional time as may be necessary to finish picking up fleeces, etc. Should the time engaged picking up, etc., exceed 30 minutes per day, all time thereafter must be paid as overtime. The hours of cooks are not regulated. Rates shown are "not found" rates. "Found" rates are 86s. per week less except in Queensland where they are 80s. 5d. per week less.

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage specified for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are *not* provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Hairdressing—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Hairdressers (Men's) ..	283/ to 293/	273 0	256/6 & 264/	284 0	286 6	289 0
Hotels—						
Barmen	273 0	265 0	251 0	267 0	276 6	270 0
Billiard Markers	263 0	255 0	239 0	236 0	251 6	260 0
Chefs	279/ to 313/	271/ to 305/	263/ & 269/	266/ to 300/6	281/6 to 291/6	276/ to 310/
Cooks—Second	273/ to 295/6	265/ to 287/6	254 0	265/ to 281/	264/ to 271/6	270/ to 292/6
Cooks—Third	273 0	265 0	254 0	261 0	261 0	270 0
Handymen	263 0	255 0	239 0	234 6	246 6	260 0
Kitchenmen	263 0	255 0	241 6	236 0	251 6	260 0
Lift Attendants	263 0	255 0	236 0	251 6	246 6	260 0
Porters—Day Work ..	263 0	255 0	239 0	238 0	256 6	260 0
Porters—Night Work ..	263 0	255 0	246 0	238 0	261 6	260 0
Waiters—Head	273 0	265 0	244 0	250/6 & 251/6	..	270 0
Waiters—Other	263 0	255 0	239 0	244 0	256 6	260 0
Restaurants—						
Cooks (Single)	282 0	267 0	250 6	258 6	272 0	272 0
Pantrymen	258 6	251 0	235 6	234 6	255 0	255 6
Waiters	258/6 & 261/	251 0	235 6	241 0	252 0	250 6

GROUP XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Factory Engine Driving—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Engine Drivers (Stationary)—					(a)	
1st Class	280/ & 286 6	272/ & 278/6	274 0	268/ & 274/6	277 4	279/ & 284/6
2nd Class	275/ & 280/	267/ & 272/	262 0	263/ & 268/	277 4	274/ & 279/
3rd Class .. ..	..	..	256 0	..	272 4	..
Firemen—						
1st Class	275 0	267 0	} 252 0 {	263 0	272 4	274 0
2nd Class	270 0	262 0		258 0	267 4	260 0
Greasers	266/ & 275/	258/ & 267/	248 0	254/ & 263/	262 6	265/ & 274/
Trimmers	262 0	254 0	244 0	250 0	259 4	261 0

(a) Rates shown are those for the sawmilling industry.

SECTION III.—*continued.*GROUP XIV.—MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL LABOUR—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Municipal—						
Labourers ..	(a) 306 0	263 6	242 0	236 0	249 0	257 0
Street Sweepers ..	(a) 312 0	269 0	242 0	243/ & 248/	249/ to 255/6	280 0
Shop and other Assistants—						
Boot Salesmen ..	285 0	271 0	265 0	266 0	279 0	279 6
Chemists' Assistants ..	324 0	322 6	302 6	278 0	270/10 & 281/9	327 6
Clerks ..	290 0	281 6	270 0	269 6	283 6	293 0
Drapery Salesmen ..	285 0	271 0	265 0	266 0	279 0	279 6
Furniture Salesmen ..	285 0	274 0	265 0	266 0	279 0	291 0
Grocery Salesmen ..	285 0	267 0	265 0	261 0	279 0	280 6
Hardware Salesmen ..	285 0	271 0	265 0	266 0	279 0	286 0
Railway Bookstall Assistants ..	285 0	261 6	265 0	266 0	279 0	286 0
Tobacconists' Assts. ..	285 0	271 0	265 0	260 0	279 0	272 0
Storemen—Packing, Cleaning, &c.—						
Night Watchmen ..	270 0	254 0	239 0	243 6	274 0	..
Office Cleaners (Day) ..	271/ & 275/	251 0	236 0	231 0	262 6	260 0
Packers—General ..	275/6 & 278/6	264 0	247 0	257 0	274 0	268 0
Storemen—General ..	274/ & 276/6	264 0	247 0	257 0	274 0	268 0
Wholesale Grocery—						
Packers ..	273 0	267/ & 269/6	247 0	257 0	274 0	268 0
Storemen ..	270 0	267/ & 269/6	247 0	257 0	274 0	268 0
Wholesale Hardware—						
Packers ..	273/ & 276/	264 0	247 0	257 0	274 0	268 0
Storemen ..	270/ & 273/	264 0	247 0	257 0	274 0	268 0

(a) Not comparable with previous years.

SECTION IV.

Minimum Rates of Wage for Adult Female Workers in the Main Occupations in the Capital City of Each State for a Full Week's Work (excluding Overtime) at 31st December, 1954.

(See Explanatory Note at top of page 151.)

NOTE.—The hours of work (constituting a full week's work) for all occupations shown hereunder are 40 per week.

GROUP III.—FOOD, DRINK, TOBACCO, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Biscuit Making—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Adult Females ..	184 0	195 3	178 10	200 3	165 3	184 6
Confectionery—						
Adult Females ..	195 0	189 9	160 6	200 3	163 10	195 0
Jam Making and Pre-						
serving—						
Fillers ..	202 9	202 9	} 181 11 {	202 9	} 171 10 {	202 9
Other Adults ..	193 9	193 9		193 9		193 9
Tea Packing—						
Head Women ..	..	204 6	182/1 to 108/1	..	..	..
Other Adults ..	182 0	187 0	177 1	186 3	160 3	..
Tobacco Working (Cigars)—						
Ringers ..	193 0	175 6	} 159/ to {	..	} 167 9 {	..
Wrapper Leaf Strippers	187/ & 197/	183 0		..		..

GROUP IV.—CLOTHING, TEXTILES, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Bootmaking—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Machinists—Wax Thread	200/ & 202 6	200/ & 202/6	200/ & 202/6	200/ & 202/6	200/ & 202/6	200/ & 202/6
Other Adults ..	195 0	195 0	195 0	195 0	195 0	195 0
Dressmaking—						
Adult Females ..	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/
Dyeing and Cleaning—						
Adult Females ..	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0
Hat Making (Straw)—						
Finishers & Machinists	198 0	198 0	198 0	198 0	198 0	198 0
Millinery—						
Adult Females ..	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0
Shirt Making—						
Adult Females ..	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0
Men's Tailoring (Order)—						
Coat Hands (Machinists) ..	213 0	213 0	213 0	213 0	213 0	213 0
Trousers, Vest Hands	200 6	200 6	200 6	200 6	200 6	200 6
Tailoresses ..	229 0	229 0	229 0	229 0	229 0	229 0
Adult Females	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0
Men's Tailoring (Ready Made)—						
Coat Hands (Machinists) ..	203 0	203 0	203 0	203 0	203 0	203 0
Trousers, Vest Hands	198 0	198 0	198 0	198 0	198 0	198 0
Adult Females ..	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0	183 0
Textile Working (Woollen Mills)—						
Comb Minders ..	194 0	194 0	} 177 0 {	188 6	194 0	194 0
Darners and Menders	196/ & 199/	196/ & 199/		190/6 & 193/6	196/ & 199/	196/ & 199/
Warpers, Plain	196 0	196 0		190 6	196 0	196 0
Weavers—Loom ..	199 0	199 0		193 6	199 0	199 0
Other Adults ..	181 0	181 0		175 6	181 0	181 0
Underclothing—						
Adult Females ..	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/	183/ to 213/

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUPS I., II., V., AND VI.—PRINTING AND OTHER MANUFACTURING.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Bedding and Furniture—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Bedding Machinists ..	185 6	196 0	173 2	193 0	172 10	201 6
Picture Frame Workers	190/6 & 277/	183 6	208/7 & 255/9	180 6	172 10	189 0
Bookbinding						
Folders and Sewers ..	206 0	200 0	187 6	197 0	201 0	205 6
Brushmaking—						
Adult Females ..	183/6 & 193/6	180/ & 182/	153 0	184/9 to 191/9	160 3	..
Candle and Soap Making—						
Adult Females ..	182 0	192 3	186 4	189 3	160 3	189 9
Cardboard Box Making—						
Box Makers ..	201/ to 210/6	195/ to 204/6	184/6 to 194/	192/ to 201/6	196/ to 205/6	200/6 to 210/
Other Adults ..	194 6	188 6	178 0	185 6	189 6	194 0
Jewellery—						
Chainmakers ..	293 0	191 6	178 6	220 2	..	..
Gilders ..	195 6	191 6	168 6	214 0	161 10	..
Polishers ..	195 6	191 6		214 0	161 10	..
Scratch Brushers ..	195 6	191 6		214 0	..	..
Leather Goods—						
Adult Females ..	204 6	192 0	188 9	193 3	176 3	197 6
Paper Making—						
Adult Females ..	199 6	193 6	(a) 165 0	..	..	199 0
Paper Bag Making—						
Adult Females ..	194/6 to 204/	188/6 to 198/	176/ to 185/6	185/6 to 195/	189/6 to 199/	194/ to 203/6
Potteries—						
Adult Females ..	182 0	175 6	158 0	..	160 3	..
Printing—						
Jobbing Office Assistants ..	206 0	200 0	187 6	197 0	201 0	205 6
Lithographic Feeders ..	206 0	200 0	187 6	197 0	201 0	205 6
Rubber Working—						
Adult Females ..	190 0	184 0	169 6	194 6	..	..
Tent and Tarpaulin Making—						
Machinists ..	198 0	196 3	188 9	193 3	165 3	197 6

(a) Paper board making.

GROUP XIII.—DOMESTIC, HOTELS, ETC.

NOTE.—The rates of wage mentioned herein for employees in Hotels and Restaurants represent the weekly cash payment where board and lodging are *not* provided.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
Hotels—	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Barnmaids ..	212 0	205 0	187 0	..	276 6	210 0
Housemaids ..	199 0	193 6	167 6	189 6	180 4	197 0
Laundresses ..	200 0	194 6	173 6	196 0	180 4	198 0
Waitresses—Head ..	206 0	200 6	172 6	194 6	..	204 0
Other ..	199 0	193 6	167 6	189 6	180 4	197 0
Laundries—						
General Hands ..	182 0	177 0	163 6	197 0	161 10	174 0
Machinists—Shirt and Collar ..	183 6	184 0		204 0		174 0
Sorters ..	183 6	177 0		204 0		174 0
Starchers ..	182 0	184 0		200 0		174 0
Washers ..	182 0	184/ & 236/		200/ & 234/6		185/ & 195/
Office Cleaning (Day)—						
Adult Females ..	191/ & 199/	234 0	171 0	173 0	176 3	..
Restaurants—						
Pantry Maids ..	182 0	184 6	161 6	187 6	177 9	195 0
Waitresses ..	182 0	184 6		189 0	180 3	191 6

SECTION IV.—*continued.*

GROUP XIV.—SHOP ASSISTANTS, CLERKS, ETC.

Industry and Occupation.	Sydney.	Melbourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Clerical—						
Cashiers (Shops) ..	204 0	203 6	194 0	199 3	192 4	200 0
Clerks ..	207 0	203 6	194 0	199 3	192 4	200 0
Ledger Machinists ..	213 6	209 3	201 6	207 0	198 4	206 0
Stenographers ..	213 6	209 3	194 0	207 0	198 4	206 0
Typists ..	207 0	209 3	194 0	207 0	192 4	200 0
Saleswomen—						
Boots and Shoes ..	204/ & 285/	191 0	180 0	199 3	186 9	185/6 to 251/7
Drapery ..	204/ & 285/	191/ & 271/6	180/ & 265/	199/3 & 266/	186 9	185/6 to 251/7
Fruit and Confectionery Newsagent and Book- stall ..	204 0	187 0	180 0	196 3	186 9	181 6
Tobacconists ..	204 0	176/ & 180/	180 0	199 3	186 9	183/6 to 193/6
		203 0	180 0	198 3	186 9	181 6

SECTION V.

Weekly Rates of Wage and Hours of Labour : Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

(Wages are quoted in the currency of the country concerned.)

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	
Furniture—												
Cabinet Maker	107 0	44	293 0	40	82 3	47	174 2	44	110 0	40	233 1	40
Upholsterer	107 0	44	293 0	40	82 3	47	174 2	44	110 0	40	..	40
French Polisher	107 0	44	293 0	40	82 3	47	174 2	44	110 0	40	..	40
Sawmilling—												
Machinist, Planing	91 0 and 100 0	44	274 6 and 292 0	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	236 4	40
Machinist, Shaping	105 0	44	292 0	40	..	..	..	..	103 4	40	236 4	40
Sawyer, Band or Jig	95 0 to 108 0	44	274 0 to 295 0	40	..	..	..	..	96 8	40	221 4	40
Sawyer, Circular	95 0 to 102 0	44	275 0 and 290 0	40	..	..	..	..	112 6	40	245 9	40
Engineering and Metal Working—												
Fitter and Turner	108 0 and 112 0	44	318 0	40	70 11	47	149 5½	44	110 0	40	237 10	40
Patternmaker	120 0	44	340 6	40	71 3	47	..	..	110 0	40	237 10	40
Moulder (Iron)	90 0 to 111 0	44	271 0 to 318 0	40	70 11	44	154 1½	44	110 0	40	235 6	40
Tinsmith	101 6	44	293 0 and 318 0	40	..	..	..	..	110 0	40	237 0	40
Milling (Flour)—												
Miller (shift)	97 0 to 107 6	44	295 0 to 320 0	40	71 0 and 73 0	42	180 0	42	(a) 99 4	40	(a) 224 8	40
Packerman	85 0	44	280 0	40	..	..	..	..	95 4	40	219 0	40

(a) Kilnman.

SECTION V.—*continued.*

WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	
Bootmaker (Manufacturing) ..	104 0	44	280 0	40	51 6 to 58 0	45	135 0	44	91 8	40	226 0	40
Tailoring (Ready-made)—												
Cutter	101 0	44	294 0	40	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	102 6	40	226 0	40
Presser (Coat)	98 0	44	283 0	40	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	92 6	40	219 6	40
Trimmer	98 0	44	283 0	40	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	92 6	40	226 0	40
Bookbinding—												
Bookbinder	108 0	44	318 0	40	80 0	45	182 0	43½	107 6	40	237 4	40
Paper Ruler	108 0	44	318 0	40	80 0	45	182 0	43½	107 6	40	..	40
Printing (Daily Newspaper)—												
Compositor (Day Work) ..	131 0	44	377 6 to 395 0	40	89 0	45	.. ..	..	107 6	40	237 4	40
Reader (Day Work)	139 6	44	349 6 to 359 6	40	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	112 6	40	251 2	40
Printing (Jobbing Offices)—												
Compositor	108 0 and 117 0	44	318 0 to 340 6	40	89 0	45	182 0	43½	107 6	40	237 4	40
Linotype Operator (Day Work)..	117 0	44	340 6	40	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	115 0	40	246 9	40
Building—												
Bricklayer	121 0	44	333 4	40	77 0	44	168 8 & 170 6	44	115 0	40	243 6	40
Carpenter	121 0	44	338 4	40	77 0	44	168 8 & 170 6	44	112 6	40	236 5	40

SECTION V.—*continued.*WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND HOURS OF LABOUR: AUSTRALIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NEW ZEALAND—*continued.*

Industry and Occupation.	AUSTRALIA (SYDNEY).				UNITED KINGDOM (LONDON).				NEW ZEALAND (AUCKLAND).			
	31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.		31st December, 1938.		31st December, 1954.	
	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.	Rates of Wage.	No. of Hours.
Building—<i>continued.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>		<i>s. d.</i>	
Labourer—Carpenter's ..	87 0	44	(a)268 6	40	57 9	44	148 6 & 150 4	44	93 4	40	215 8	40
Concrete Worker ..	87 0	44	(a)268 6	40	(b)	(b)	148 6 & 150 4	44	93 4	40	215 8	40
Earth Excavator ..	87 0	44	(a)268 6	40	(b)	(b)	148 6 & 150 4	44	93 4	40	215 8	40
Painter	114 4	44	321 8	40	73 4	44	168 8 & 170 6	44	110 0	40	229 4	40
Paperhanger	114 4	44	321 8	40	77 0	44	168 8 & 170 6	44	110 0	40	229 4	40
Plasterer	121 0	44	330 10	40	77 0	44	168 8 & 170 6	44	115 0	40	239 8	40
Plumber	125 0	44	330 9	40	77 0	44	168 8 & 170 6	44	110 0	40	243 0	40
Tramways—												
Conductor—												
1st year	87 0	44	264 0	40	73 0 to 82 0	48	148 6	44	95 10 and 100 0	40	204 4 & 209 1	40
2nd year	90 0	44	270 0	40			154 6	44			209 1	40
3rd year, etc. ..	93 0	44	270 0	40			154 6	44			209 1	40
Motorman—												
1st year	99 0	44	273 0	40	73 0 to 82 0	48	150 6	44	100 0 and 103 4	40	217 6	40
2nd year	99 0	44	273 0	40			158 6	44			217 6	40
3rd year, etc. ..	99 0	44	273 0	40			158 6	44			217 6	40
Carrying (Merchandise)—												
Carter (1 horse) ..	92 0	44	274 0	40	60 0 and 61 0	48	130 0	44	93 0	40	205 5	40
Municipal—Labourer ..	94 6	44	(c)306 0	40	58 8 to 64 6	47	141 2	44	90 0	40	204 4	40

(a) Rate excludes allowances for statutory holidays, following the job and sick pay.

(b) Not available.

(c) Not comparable with rates for previous year.

SECTION VI.

Basic Wage Rates—1923 to 1954.

(Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration.)

The following table shows the basic weekly wage rates prescribed for adult males under periodical decisions of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, including automatic variations made prior to 12th September, 1953 in accordance with quarterly changes in the retail price index for the city or combination of cities shown at the head of the table. On that date the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration announced its decision to discontinue the system of automatic adjustment of the basic wage in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers. The amount *legally* payable in any specific instance must be determined by reference to the appropriate award.

- (1) The rates of wage shown include "Powers 3s." (or the equivalent thereof) and "Prosperity" loadings, where applicable.
- (2) The 10 per cent. reduction operative from February, 1931, to May, 1934, has been applied.
- (3) Generally the rates operated from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing in the month indicated.

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel-bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1923—							
February ..	82 6	82 0	73 0	78 0	73 6	81 6	80 6
May ..	"	81 6	73 6	79 6	74 0	83 0	"
August ..	86 6	87 6	75 0	84 0	79 6	87 6	85 0
November ..	89 0	91 6	76 0	85 6	78 0	89 0	87 6
1924—							
February ..	87 0	87 6	77 6	84 0	76 0	89 6	85 0
May ..	86 0	85 6	77 0	"	78 0	"	84 6
August ..	85 6	85 0	75 0	85 6	78 6	88 6	84 0
November ..	84 6	84 6	"	84 0	79 0	88 0	83 0
1925—							
February ..	85 0	84 0	74 0	83 6	79 6	87 0	83 6
May ..	86 0	85 6	75 0	85 0	81 0	"	84 6
August ..	87 0	87 0	76 6	87 6	82 6	"	85 6
November ..	88 0	87 6	77 0	86 0	81 0	85 6	86 0
1926—							
February ..	89 6	"	78 6	85 6	77 6	86 0	86 6
May ..	90 6	88 6	82 0	86 6	81 6	89 0	88 0
August ..	92 6	92 0	"	89 6	84 0	"	90 6
November ..	91 6	89 0	82 6	85 6	81 6	88 6	88 6
1927—							
February ..	"	88 6	83 0	84 6	80 0	87 0	88 0
May ..	90 6	87 6	80 6	86 0	"	86 6	87 6
August ..	89 6	87 0	78 6	"	80 6	85 6	86 6
November ..	90 6	90 0	79 6	88 0	79 6	85 0	88 0
1928—							
February ..	93 0	89 6	80 6	87 0	80 0	84 0	89 0
May ..	91 6	88 0	79 6	87 6	"	82 6	88 0
August ..	92 0	87 6	"	"	84 0	83 0	"
November ..	90 6	86 0	79 0	85 0	85 0	82 6	87 0
1929—							
February ..	91 0	"	80 0	84 0	"	83 0	"
May ..	95 0	89 6	81 6	88 0	86 0	86 0	90 6
August ..	94 6	90 0	80 6	88 6	86 6	85 6	"
November ..	95 0	"	"	"	85 6	86 0	"
1930—							
February ..	95 6	"	81 0	87 0	83 6	86 6	"
May ..	92 0	86 0	77 6	84 0	82 6	84 0	87 0
August ..	91 0	85 6	73 0	82 6	82 0	"	86 0
November ..	88 0	83 0	70 6	78 0	79 0	82 0	83 0

SECTION VI.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1931—							
February ..	76 6	70 2	60 9	66 2	66 2	70 2	71 1
May ..	74 3	68 5	60 9	64 4	66 7	68 10	69 4
August ..	72 11	65 8	60 4	62 1	65 8	67 1	67 6
November ..	70 8	63 5	58 6	58 1	62 1	64 4	65 3
1932—							
February ..	68 10	"	"	"	60 9	64 10	64 4
May ..	"	63 11	"	58 11	61 8	65 3	64 10
August ..	68 5	63 0	57 7	58 6	"	65 8	63 11
November ..	67 6	61 8	56 8	57 2	59 5	64 4	63 0
1933—							
February ..	66 7	60 4	55 10	55 4	58 1	63 5	61 8
May ..	67 10	63 4	59 4	59 2	59 9	64 10	64 2
August ..	66 11	62 5	58 10	"	58 10	63 10	63 4
November ..	"	62 10	59 4	59 7	60 3	63 11	"
1934—							
February ..	"	63 4	"	60 2	59 3	64 10	63 9
May ..	67 0	64 0	61 0	*64 0	66 0	*67 0	65 0
June ..	68 0	"	62 0	*65 0	"	"	66 0
September ..	"	"	"	* "	68 0	*67 0	"
December ..	"	"	"	* "	"	* "	"
1935—							
March ..	"	66 0	"	* "	"	*69 0	"
June ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
September ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
December ..	70 0	"	64 0	67 0	"	"	68 0
1936—							
March ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
June ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
September ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
December ..	"	69 0	66 0	69 0	71 0	"	"
1937—							
March ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	70 0
June ..	72 0	"	68 0	"	"	"	"
July ..	75 0	72 0	71 0	70 0	72 0	72 0	73 0
September ..	"	73 0	70 0	71 0	73 0	73 0	"
October ..	78 0	76 0	73 0	73 0	75 0	75 0	75 0
December ..	"	77 0	74 0	74 0	"	"	76 0
1938—							
March ..	79 0	"	"	75 0	74 0	76 0	77 0
June ..	"	"	75 0	"	75 0	"	"
September ..	80 0	78 0	"	76 0	76 0	"	"
December ..	81 0	79 0	"	"	"	"	78 0
1939—							
March ..	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
June ..	82 0	81 0	77 0	78 0	77 0	77 0	79 0
September ..	81 0	"	76 0	"	"	"	"
December ..	82 0	80 0	"	77 0	"	"	"
1940—							
February ..	"	81 0	77 0	"	"	78 0	80 0
May ..	83 0	82 0	78 0	78 0	"	"	"
August ..	85 0	84 0	79 0	80 0	79 0	80 0	82 0
November ..	"	"	"	"	80 0	81 0	83 0
1941—							
February ..	88 0	86 0	82 0	82 0	81 0	83 0	85 0
May ..	"	87 0	83 0	83 0	82 0	84 0	86 0
August ..	89 0	"	"	"	84 0	85 0	"
November ..	"	88 0	84 0	84 0	85 0	"	87 0

* Except in special cases these rates were subject to graduated deductions so that the increase granted in May, 1934, was, in effect, introduced in stages over the succeeding twelve months.

SECTION VI.—*continued.*

Date Operative.	Sydney.	Mel- bourne.	Brisbane.	Adelaide.	Perth.	Hobart.	Six Capitals.
	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
1942—							
February ..	91 0	89 0	86 0	86 0	86 0	87 0	88 0
May ..	93 0	92 0	88 0	88 0	87 0	88 0	90 0
August ..	95 0	94 0	89 0	91 0	89 0	91 0	93 0
November ..	97 0	97 0	91 0	93 0	91 0	92 0	95 0
1943—							
February ..	98 0	98 0	„	„	92 0	94 0	96 0
May ..	„	„	92 0	„	„	„	„
August ..	100 0	99 0	94 0	94 0	94 0	95 0	98 0
November ..	99 0	98 0	93 0	„	„	„	97 0
1944—							
February ..	„	97 0	„	93 0	93 0	94 0	96 0
May ..	„	„	„	„	„	„	„
August ..	„	98 0	„	„	„	93 0	„
November ..	„	„	„	„	94 0	94 0	„
1945—							
February ..	„	„	„	„	93 0	„	„
May ..	98 0	„	„	„	„	93 0	„
August ..	„	„	„	„	94 0	„	„
November ..	99 0	„	„	„	„	94 0	„
1946—							
February ..	„	„	„	94 0	„	95 0	„
May ..	„	„	94 0	„	„	„	97 0
August ..	100 0	99 0	„	95 0	95 0	96 0	98 0
November ..	101 0	„	„	„	„	97 0	„
December ..	108 0	106 0	101 0	102 0	102 0	103 0	105 0
1947—							
February ..	„	107 0	103 0	„	103 0	104 0	106 0
May ..	110 0	„	104 0	103 0	„	„	„
August ..	„	108 0	„	104 0	104 0	105 0	107 0
November ..	112 0	109 0	105 0	106 0	106 0	107 0	109 0
1948—							
February ..	114 0	113 0	107 0	108 0	107 0	110 0	111 0
May ..	116 0	115 0	110 0	111 0	110 0	112 0	114 0
August ..	120 0	117 0	113 0	114 0	112 0	115 0	116 0
November ..	122 0	120 0	115 0	116 0	116 0	118 0	119 0
1949—							
February ..	124 0	123 0	118 0	119 0	118 0	121 0	122 0
May ..	127 0	125 0	119 0	121 0	120 0	124 0	124 0
August ..	130 0	128 0	122 0	124 0	126 0	127 0	127 0
November ..	132 0	130 0	125 0	126 0	129 0	128 0	129 0
1950—							
February ..	135 0	134 0	127 0	129 0	131 0	131 0	133 0
May ..	138 0	137 0	129 0	131 0	133 0	„	135 0
August ..	142 0	140 0	132 0	134 0	136 0	135 0	138 0
November ..	146 0	143 0	135 0	137 0	139 0	139 0	142 0
December ..	165 0	162 0	154 0	158 0	160 0	160 0	162 0
1951—							
February ..	173 0	170 0	159 0	166 0	166 0	165 0	169 0
May ..	180 0	177 0	166 0	171 0	176 0	173 0	176 0
August ..	193 0	189 0	175 0	184 0	188 0	187 0	189 0
November ..	207 0	199 0	185 0	195 0	197 0	199 0	200 0
1952—							
February ..	216 0	209 0	199 0	205 0	205 0	208 0	210 0
May ..	223 0	212 0	207 0	211 0	214 0	214 0	216 0
August ..	235 0	224 0	213 0	224 0	222 0	222 0	227 0
November ..	237 0	228 0	216 0	229 0	228 0	230 0	231 0
1953—							
February ..	238 0	229 0	215 0	225 0	229 0	232 0	231 0
May ..	241 0	232 0	217 0	228 0	231 0	239 0	234 0
August(a) ..	243 0	235 0	218 0	231 0	236 0	242 0	236 0

(a) By the decision of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, announced on 12th September, 1953, automatic adjustment of basic wages in accordance with variations occurring in retail price index numbers was discontinued in Commonwealth awards either then the subject of applications before the Court or subsequently reviewed by the Court in this connexion.

SECTION VII.

COMPARATIVE INDEX NUMBERS FOR THE SIX CAPITAL CITIES COMBINED.

(Base of Each Group: Weighted Average of Six Capital Cities, 1911 = 1,000(a).)

Period.	"C" Series Retail Price Index Numbers.					Nominal Wage Rates, Adult Males.	Real Wage Rates, (c)
	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5- roomed Houses). (b)	Clothing.	Miscel- laneous.	Total. "C" Series Retail Price Index.		
Year—							
1911	1,000	1,000	(d) 1,000	(d) 1,000	(d) 1,000	1,000	1,000
1914	1,144	1,082	1,140	1,140	1,140	1,081	948
1921	1,902	1,410	1,883	1,537	1,680	1,826	1,087
1929	1,866	1,754	1,506	1,533	1,713	1,972	1,151
1932	1,425	1,336	1,215	1,458	1,377	1,639	1,190
1933	1,342	1,314	1,190	1,447	1,335	1,584	1,187
1939	1,657	1,577	1,271	1,465	1,526	1,846	1,210
1940	1,679	1,590	1,445	1,519	1,588	1,889	1,190
1943	1,855	1,595	2,177	1,766	1,876	2,309	1,231
1944	1,834	1,595	2,168	1,773	1,867	2,326	1,246
1945	1,849	1,595	2,155	1,767	1,868	2,339	1,252
1946	1,852	1,596	2,276	1,776	1,900	2,400	1,263
1947	1,967	1,597	2,367	1,825	1,971	2,598	1,318
1948	2,245	1,601	2,637	1,913	2,148	2,914	1,357
1949	2,492	1,605	3,019	2,037	2,349	3,210	1,367
1950	2,800	1,613	3,455	2,184	2,589	3,599	1,389
1951	3,649	1,649	4,156	2,555	3,124	4,495	1,439
1952	4,516	1,728	4,657	2,980	3,645	5,241	1,438
1953	4,723	1,861	4,872	3,126	3,820	5,539	1,450
1954	4,776	1,949	4,865	3,139	3,860	5,632	1,459
1955	5,027	2,005	4,894	3,168	3,970	5,773	1,454
Quarter—							
1939.							
September ..	1,645	1,582	1,264	1,463	1,520	1,854	1,220
1948.							
March	2,128	1,599	2,511	1,874	2,071	2,781	1,343
June	2,197	1,600	2,600	1,900	2,121	2,854	1,346
September ..	2,278	1,601	2,688	1,935	2,175	2,970	1,366
December ..	2,378	1,602	2,748	1,944	2,225	3,050	1,371
1949.							
March	2,433	1,603	2,795	1,985	2,263	3,099	1,369
June	2,482	1,604	2,968	2,017	2,328	3,182	1,367
September ..	2,497	1,606	3,089	2,047	2,370	3,249	1,371
December ..	2,555	1,608	3,223	2,098	2,433	3,310	1,360
1950.							
March	2,633	1,609	3,259	2,134	2,474	3,372	1,363
June	2,718	1,611	3,418	2,151	2,546	3,458	1,358
September ..	2,828	1,614	3,501	2,180	2,609	3,545	1,359
December ..	3,020	1,618	3,643	2,271	2,726	4,009	1,471
1951.							
March	3,201	1,641	3,760	2,381	2,843	4,142	1,457
June	3,443	1,646	4,151	2,498	3,042	4,387	1,442
September ..	3,819	1,651	4,283	2,611	3,224	4,601	1,427
December ..	4,133	1,656	4,429	2,731	3,388	4,850	1,432
1952.							
March	4,298	1,672	4,523	2,783	3,481	5,036	1,447
June	4,589	1,702	4,685	2,967	3,661	5,156	1,408
September ..	4,633	1,750	4,709	3,072	3,714	5,345	1,439
December ..	4,544	1,789	4,712	3,098	3,722	5,428	1,458
1953.							
March	4,590	1,835	4,838	3,118	3,763	5,443	1,446
June	4,658	1,857	4,906	3,122	3,805	5,512	1,449
September ..	4,804	1,870	4,880	3,127	3,851	5,591	1,452
December ..	4,831	1,882	4,863	3,136	3,861	5,611	1,453
1954.							
March	4,798	1,900	4,880	3,151	3,861	5,622	1,456
June	4,774	1,947	4,856	3,137	3,856	5,624	1,459
September ..	4,746	1,970	4,853	3,133	3,851	5,623	1,460
December ..	4,787	1,977	4,870	3,136	3,871	5,658	1,462
1955.							
March	4,882	1,983	4,865	3,115	3,898	5,720	1,467
June	4,952	1,997	4,898	3,151	3,941	5,746	1,457
September ..	5,103	2,014	4,903	3,168	4,001	5,774	1,443
December ..	5,169	2,025	4,910	3,239	4,041	5,853	1,448

(a) The index numbers given in the separate columns of the table cannot be compared with each other in order to show, for example, the relative cost of housing, and food and groceries, since the cost in 1911 in each group or combination of groups is made equal to 1,000. (b) See footnote (b) on page 21.

(c) Index of nominal weekly wage rates for adult males divided by "C" Series Retail Price Index Number. (d) Taken back from true base (November, 1914) by means of the "A" Series Index (Food and Rent of All Houses).

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